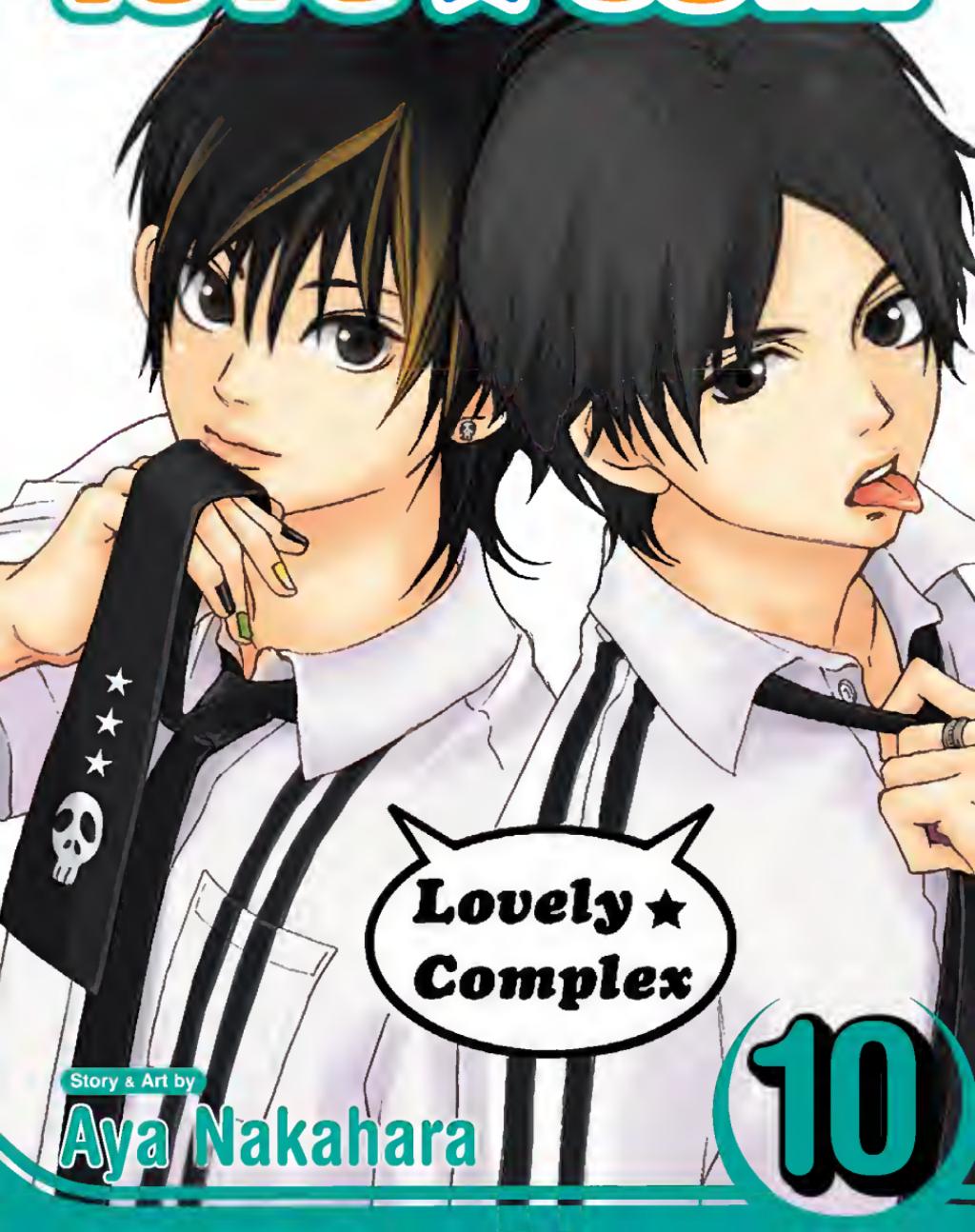


# love★com



Story & Art by

Aya Nakahara

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Shojo Beat

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## contents

10

<b>Chapter 37 .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Chapter 38 .....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Chapter 39 .....</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Chapter 40 .....</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Glossary .....</b>	<b>177</b>

## The Story So Far . . .

Risa and Ôtoni are their class's lopsided comedy duo, but then Risa falls in love with Ôtoni! She finally works up the courage to tell him how she feels, only to be rejected. Even so, she keeps trying to change his mind, and after a ton of twists and turns, they start going out!! However, Ôtoni's neighbor Mimi, who has a huge crush on him, starts crashing their dates and making things very complicated. But Risa and Ôtoni manage to sort it all out and grow even closer, until the subject of "life after graduation" throws another monkey wrench into their relationship!! Ôtoni wants to go to college and become a teacher so he can coach basketball. He starts studying really hard to pass the college entrance exams, and Risa, who hasn't thought about her future very seriously, is beginning to feel left behind... She starts waitressing part-time, but drops so many dishes she feels even more depressed... Ôtoni cheers her up and makes her feel better, but what's coming up next?!

♥ To really get all the details, check out *Lovely Complex* Vols. 1-9, available at bookstores everywhere!!

AND ONE  
POLYNESIAN  
DANCER.

ONE  
HAWAIIAN  
DANCER...

ONE  
ITALIAN  
HAM-  
BURGER  
DINNER  
WITH  
RICE...

ANYTHING  
ELSE?  
GREAT!  
SO  
LET ME  
REPEAT  
YOUR  
ORDER,  
THEN.

IT WAS  
ALL  
WRONG.

I asked for  
a Japanese  
Hamburger  
Set.

WORGH.

NO.  
THAT WAS  
NOT ALL  
RIGHT.

AND I  
BELIEVE  
THAT'S  
IT. WAS  
THAT ALL  
RIGHT?

10

Story & Art by  
Aya Nakahara



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## CHAPTER 37







I'M CRAZY  
ABOUT HIM!  
I MEAN,  
HE TOTALLY  
ROCKS! I  
JUST CAN'T  
FIGURE OUT  
WHY MORE  
PEOPLE  
DON'T  
GET IT!

ISN'T  
HE THE  
BEST?!

I'M  
TOTALLY  
SERIOUS!  
HE'S LIKE,  
THE  
MASTER!  
HE'S  
AWESOME!!

TOTALLY!  
ARE YOU  
KIDDING  
ME? I  
LOOOOOVE  
UMIBOZU!!

NO WAY!  
OMIGOD!  
YOU  
WERE  
THERE  
TOO?!!

KOHORI-  
KUN.

LIKE, I  
PRACTI-  
CALLY HAD  
TO BRIBE  
THIS  
BUDDY OF  
MINE TO  
GO TO  
THE SHOW  
WITH...

I  
KNOW,  
HUH?!

W  
H  
A  
A  
T  
?!

WHO, ME?  
I GET  
OFF IN,  
LIKE, AN  
HOUR.

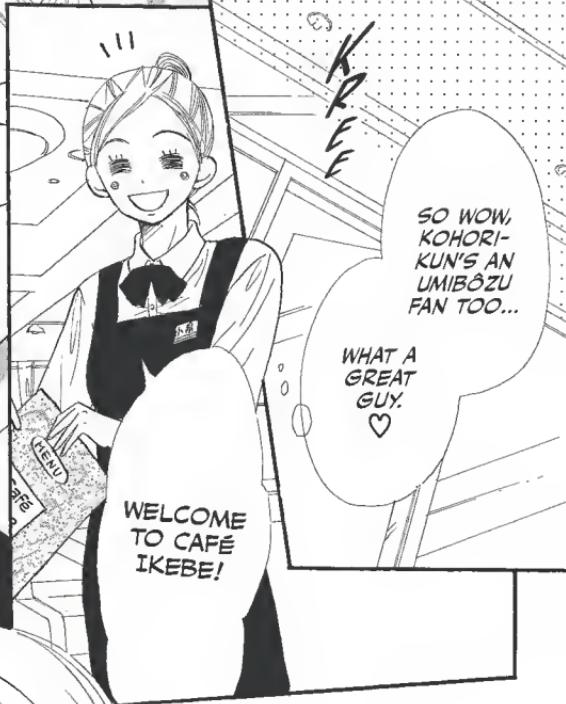
HOW  
LATE'RE  
YOU  
WORKING  
TODAY,  
KOIZUMI-  
SAN?

I'M  
GONNA  
GET  
DOCKED  
AGAIN!

OH!  
YARGH!

YOU  
DON'T  
HAVE TIME  
TO BE  
CHATTING  
RIGHT  
NOW!  
GET  
CHANGED  
AND  
PUNCH  
IN YOUR  
TIME  
CARD!





**PFFFFT!**

MANAGERRR!  
EXCUSE ME,  
BUT THIS  
WAITRESS  
HERE HAS  
A GIANT  
ATTITUDE  
PROBLEM!

UH!  
DON'T  
EVEN!  
YOU  
JUST  
CAME TO  
LAUGH  
AT ME,  
DIDN'T  
YOU?!

HOW'S  
IT  
GOING,  
RISA?

WHAT'RE  
YOU  
DOING  
HERE?!

YOU  
GUYYYYS!

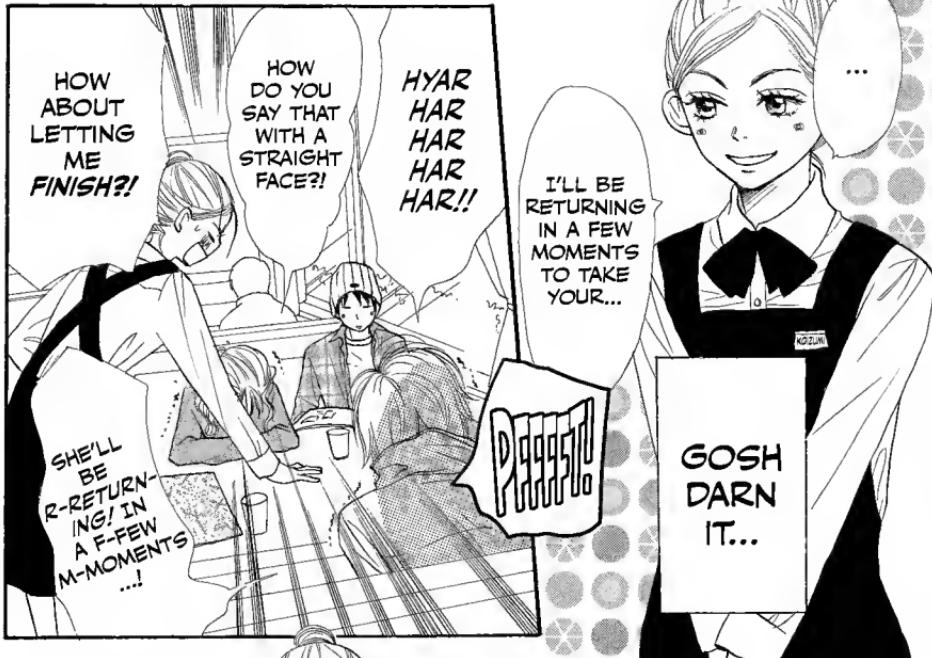
WE'RE  
CUSTOMERS,  
OKAY? WE'RE  
WAITING TO  
BE SHOWN TO  
A TABLE, IS  
WHAT WE'RE  
DOING HERE.

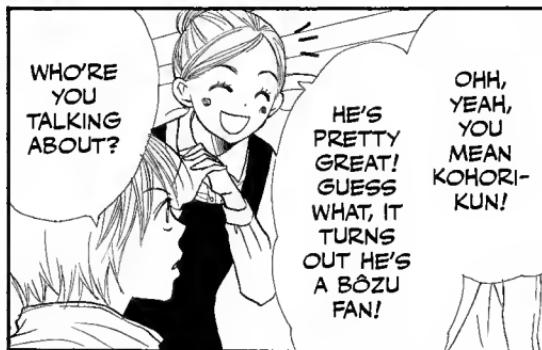
ÔTANI  
...!

DWOOD

...

KATIAK







SHE  
SEEMS TO  
BE GETTING  
ALONG HERE  
BETTER THAN  
I THOUGHT.

...WHAT-  
EVER.

WELL,  
WELL,  
WELL.

HEY!

YEAH,  
TOTALLY.

OH,  
SHE  
WAS?

WELL,  
SHE WAS  
PRETTY  
DEPRESSED  
ABOUT  
GETTING  
YELLED AT  
ALL THE  
TIME.

AFTER ALL  
THAT STUFF  
ABOUT "LET'S  
GO GIVE HER  
A HARD TIME,"  
IT TURNS OUT  
HE WAS JUST  
WORRIED ABOUT  
HER AND WANTED  
TO SEE HOW SHE  
WAS DOING.

THAT'S  
NOT WHY  
I CAME, YA  
DOPES!!

AWWW...  
HOW  
SWEET.  
♥

KEEP  
TALKING  
LIKE THAT,  
AND RISA'S  
GOING TO  
START  
FOOLING  
AROUND WITH  
THAT CUTE  
SHRIMPY  
GUY.

YEAH,  
YEAH.  
GO ON.

I'M TRYING  
TO GET INTO  
COLLEGE  
HERE, OKAY?  
YOU THINK I  
GOT TIME TO  
BE WORRIED  
ABOUT  
KOIZUMI?

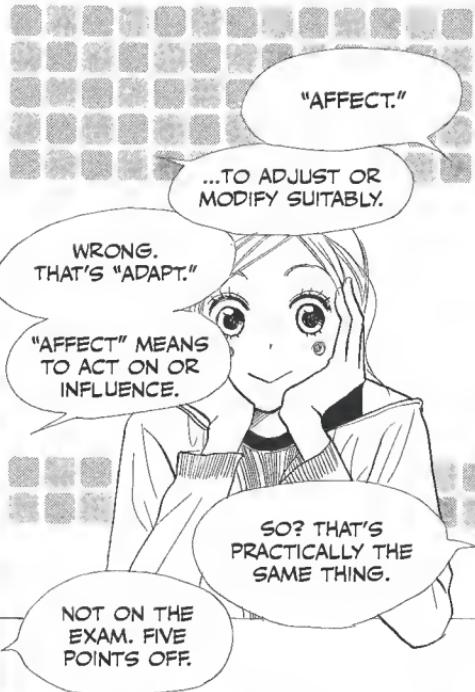
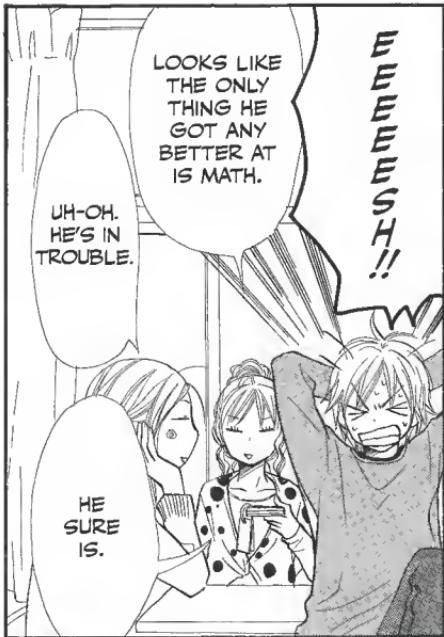
YUP,  
YUP.  
WATCH  
OUT!

SO ÔTANI  
GOES TO  
HIS PREP  
COURSE ON  
SUNDAYS  
TOO.

DARN...

YEAH,  
RIGHT.  
AS IF.





WELL,  
I DON'T.  
I CAN'T  
TAKE THE  
EXAM  
FOR YOU,  
AFTER  
ALL.

LIKE  
YOU GOT  
NOTHING  
TO DO  
WITH  
THIS...

BUT I'M  
TOTALLY  
ROOTING  
FOR YOU,  
YOU  
KNOW?

WELL,  
THAT'S  
TRUE, I  
GUESS...

OH,  
YEAH.  
WOW, IT  
MUST BE  
TOUGH.

HOW  
COME?!  
I MEAN,  
JEEZ, WHAT  
ELSE AM I  
SUPPOSED  
TO DO?!

THAT  
KINDA  
GETS  
ON MY  
NERVES...!

JUST  
DON'T DO  
ANYTHING.  
YOU WANNA  
DO ME A  
FAVOR,  
STAY OUTTA  
MY WAY.

GO,  
ÔTANI!  
★  
RAH, RAH,  
RAH!



Hello, Nakahara here. We're up to Volume 10.

Well, I tell ya. You get up to ten volumes of a manga, you get a little older in the process. In fact, I've aged three years since I started this one. Thanks to all of you, though, it's been a very meaningful three years...

Meanwhile, my sister had a baby girl.

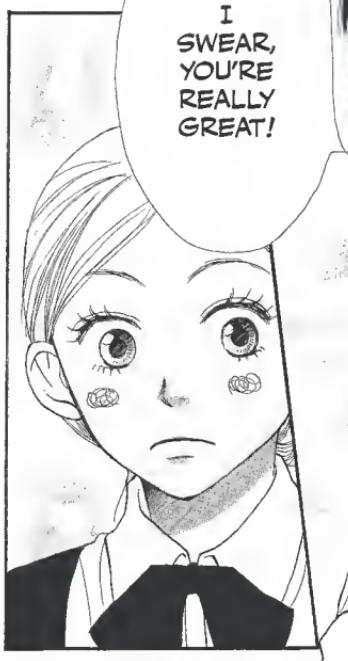
She loves Aunt Aya's Dynamite Shikoku imitation. Every time I see her, I have to shout "Shikoku, Shikoku" and do wrestling poses, yes indeed.

In fact, I was just doing it now, so Auntie's kinda out of breath.













...INSTEAD  
OF BEING  
CALLED MISS  
USELESS AND  
TREATED LIKE  
A GIANT PAIN  
IN THE BUTT  
BY A CERTAIN  
GROUCHY  
SOMEBODY  
WHO'S  
STUDYING  
TOO MUCH  
TO BE NICE  
TO ME...



BOY.



IT SURE  
IS NICE  
BEING  
APPRECI-  
ATED  
FOR A  
CHANGE...



GROUCH

GROUCH

GROUCH

GROUCH

GROUCH

GROUCH

SHUT UP,  
LOUD-  
MOUTH.  
LEAVE ME  
ALONE.

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON  
HERE?

WHAT'S  
WITH THIS  
HEAVY,  
DEPRESSING  
ATMO-  
SPHERE?



...EASY  
FOR  
YOU  
TO  
SAY,  
ISN'T  
IT...

I JUST  
DON'T  
WANT  
YOU TO  
OVER-  
DO IT,  
THAT'S  
ALL.  
YOU PUSH  
YOURSELF  
TOO HARD,  
YOU COULD  
COLLAPSE.

YOU STILL  
HAVE TIME,  
OKAY? KEEP  
AT IT, AND  
YOU'LL DO  
ALL RIGHT.

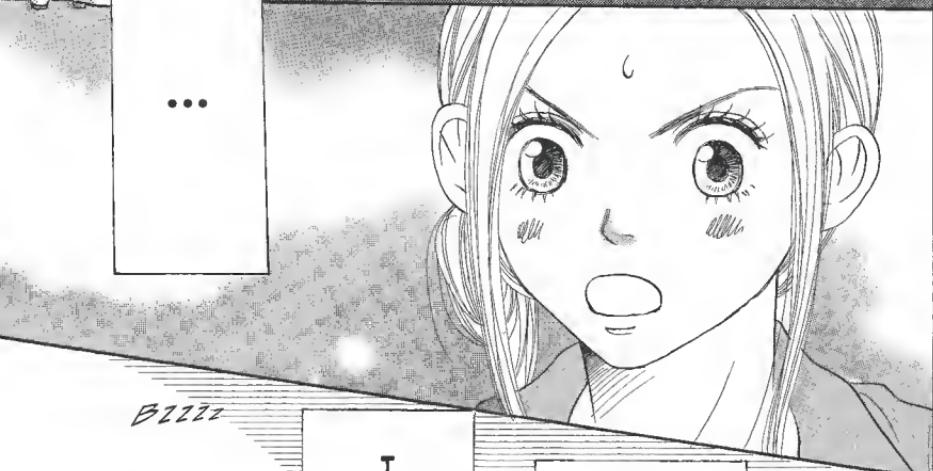
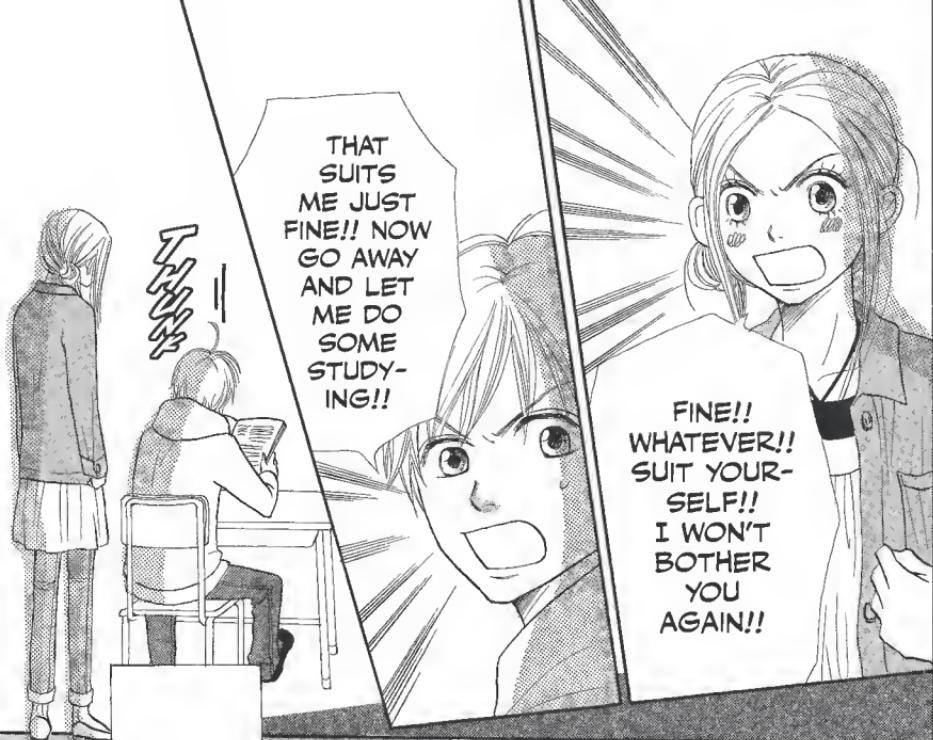
YOU CAN'T  
EXPECT TO  
GET GOOD  
TEST SCORES  
RIGHT OFF  
THE BAT WHEN  
YOU ONLY  
STARTED  
STUDYING  
NOW.

WHAT IS YOUR  
PROBLEM?!  
YOU'RE ACTING  
LIKE YOU HAVE  
A GIANT BURR  
STUCK UP  
YOUR BUTT!!

WELL,  
MAYBE  
I DO!  
AND MAYBE  
YOU'RE IT!  
SO WHY  
DON'T YOU  
JUST GET  
THE HECK  
OUTTA  
HERE!!

UH...

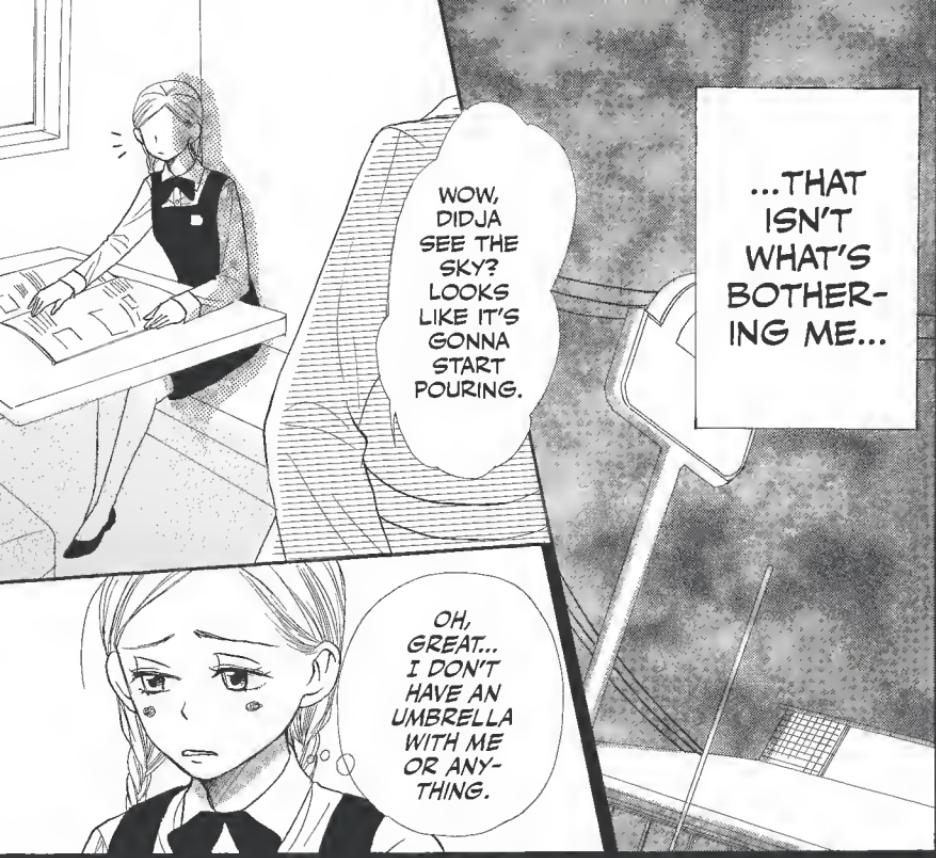
LOOK,  
JUST  
LEAVE ME  
ALONE!!  
GET  
OUTTA MY  
FACE!!





...THAT I  
REALLY AM  
IN HIS WAY,  
FOR REAL.  
LIKE HAVING  
ME AROUND  
REALLY  
**DOES GET**  
ON HIS  
NERVES.







AFTER  
ALL...

...HE'S  
REALLY  
GOING  
FOR IT. HE'S  
STUDYING SO  
HARD HE'S  
PRACTICALLY  
KILLING  
HIMSELF.

I'M GONNA  
BUY HIM  
SOMETHING  
TO TAKE  
OVER THERE  
WHEN I GET  
OFF WORK.

I WANT TO  
HELP HIM  
SOMEHOW.  
I WANT TO  
DO MORE  
THAN JUST  
CHEER  
HIM ON.

SO YEAH,  
I MISS  
BEING  
WITH HIM,  
BUT  
THAT'S  
OKAY.

PLOP

HERE I  
AM RIGHT  
ACROSS THE  
STREET, AND  
HE'S RIGHT,  
I'VE BEEN  
TOTALLY  
USELESS  
TO HIM.



I WAS KINDA HOPING THE RAIN WOULD STOP. DIDN'T BRING AN UMBRELLA ...

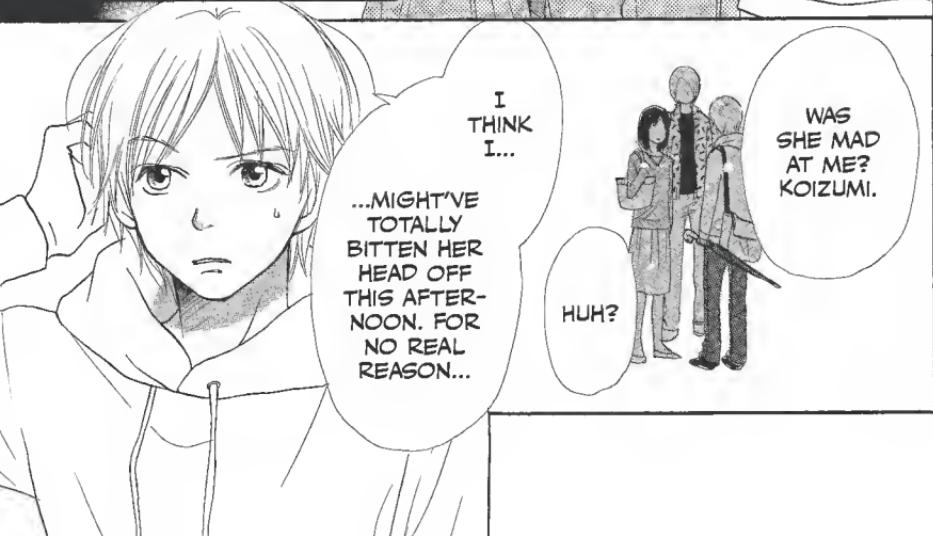
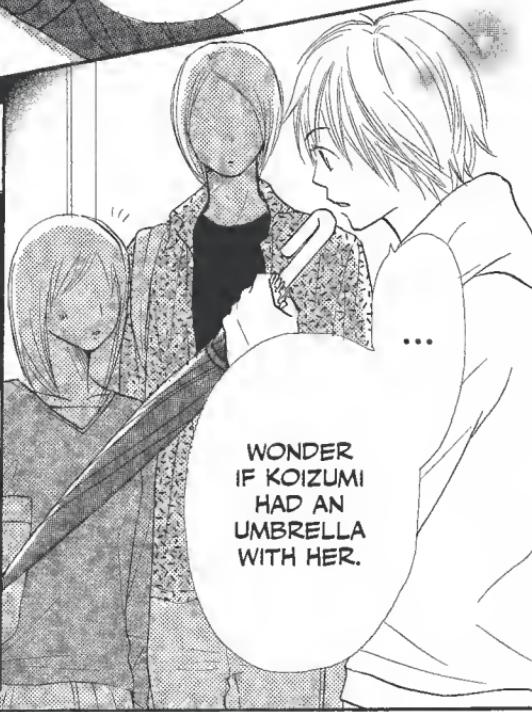
...WANNA USE MINE?



HEY, DUDES. YOU WERE HERE TODAY?



OKAY.  
COOL.  
THANKS  
A LOT...





WONDER IF  
IT'S ABOUT  
TIME FOR  
HIM TO GET  
OUT OF  
HIS PREP  
COURSE...

ÔTANI

...





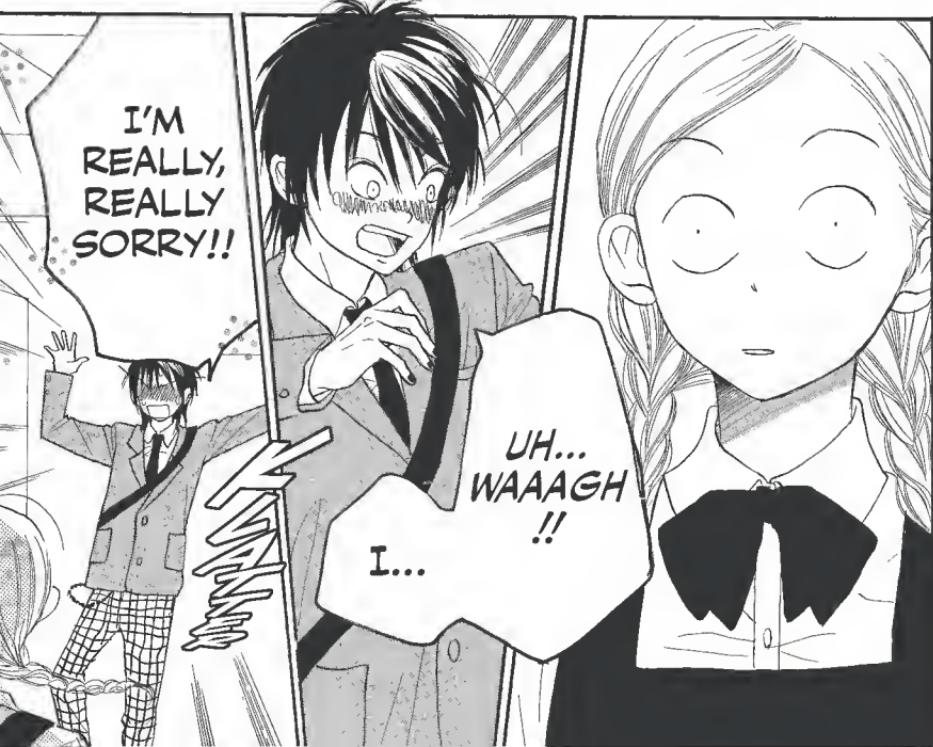




GIVE  
HIM A  
LITTLE  
SURPRISE

...

...HMM?







HUH...?

OH.

COOL.  
GOOD  
FOR  
YOU.

CUZ IF  
YOU DO,  
GO AHEAD  
AND USE  
THIS ONE.

YOU  
NEED AN  
UMBRELLA,  
KOIZUMI-  
SAN...?

TOK

WAIT,  
ÔTANI!  
JUST  
HOLD  
ON!

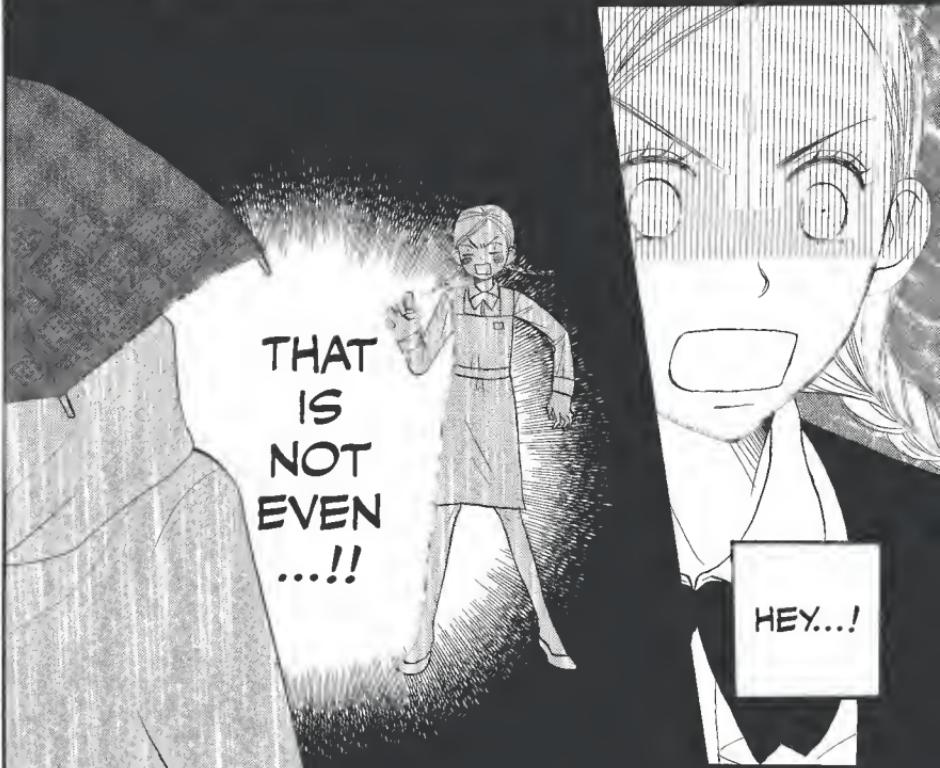
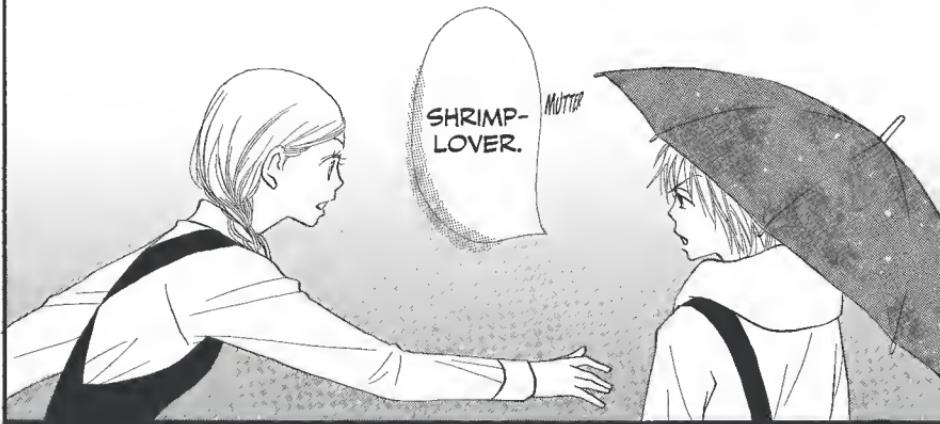
NO!

SEE  
YA.

GUESS  
YOU  
DON'T  
NEED  
ME,  
THEN.

!



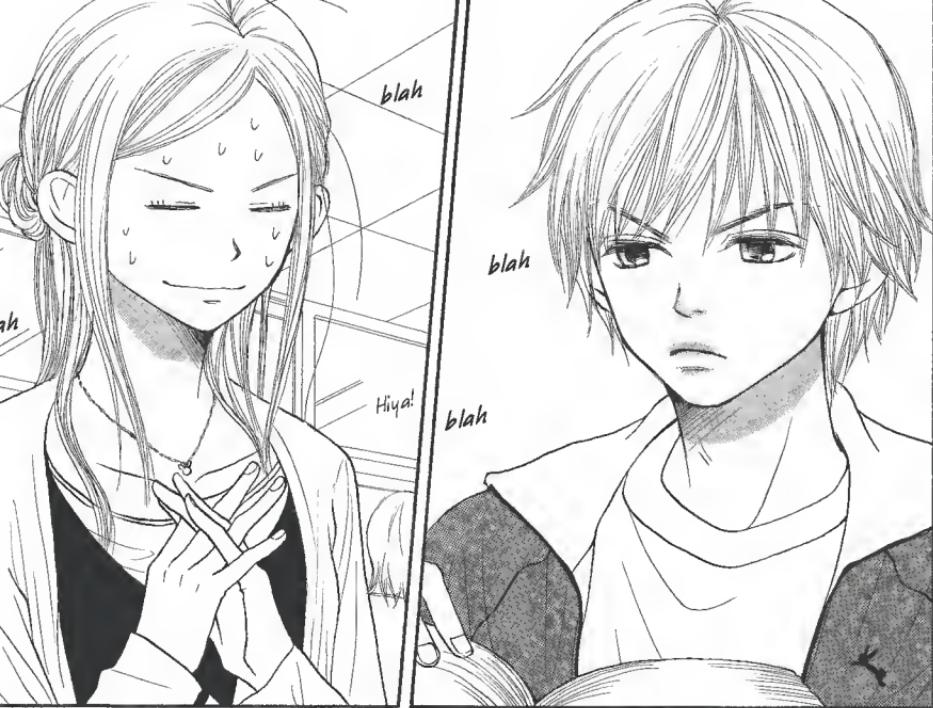


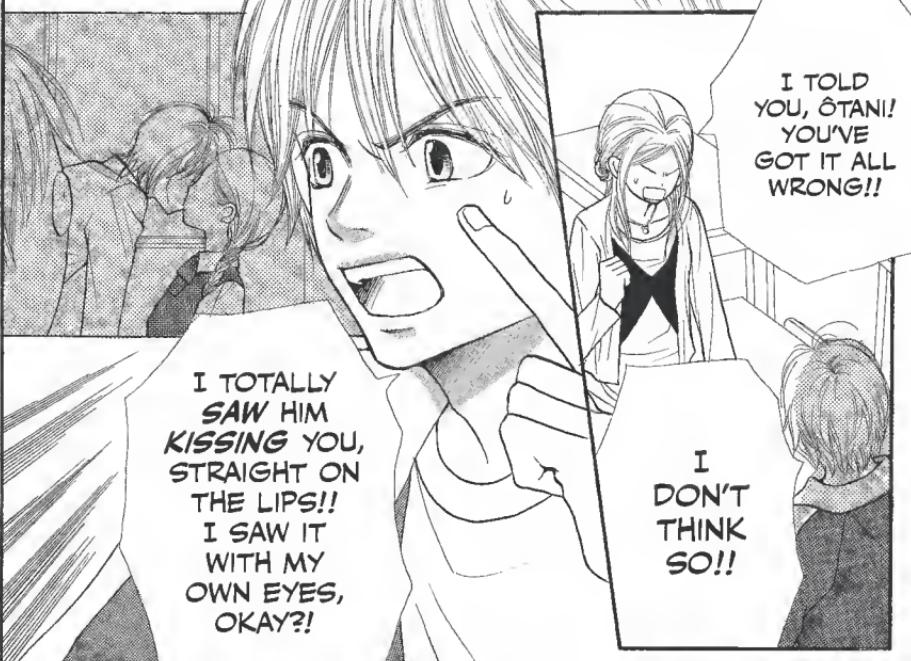




## CHAPTER 38







I TOLD  
YOU, ÔTANI!  
YOU'VE  
GOT IT ALL  
WRONG!!

I TOTALLY  
SAW HIM  
KISSING YOU,  
STRAIGHT ON  
THE LIPS!!  
I SAW IT  
WITH MY  
OWN EYES,  
OKAY?!

I  
DON'T  
THINK  
SO!!



AS IF ANY  
GIRL WOULD  
EVER GO OUT  
WITH A GUY  
JUST CUZ  
HE'S SHORTER  
THAN HER! IT'S  
JUST DORKY-  
LOOKING!!

OH,  
GIVE ME  
A MAJOR  
BREAK,  
ÔTANI!!!

YOU DON'T  
CARE WHO  
IT IS, SO  
LONG AS  
HE'S SHORT,  
DO YOU?!  
YOU BIG  
PERVERT!!



I WAS JUST  
KIDDING WHEN  
I SAID THAT  
ABOUT FOOLING  
AROUND CUZ  
HE'S GOT NO  
TIME FOR YOU.  
I NEVER IN A  
MILLION YEARS  
THOUGHT  
YOU'D ACTUALLY  
DO IT!

WELL, IT IS,  
JEEZ!! IF YOU  
THINK YOUR  
SHRIMPINESS  
MAKES YOU  
SOME KIND  
OF A BABE  
MAGNET,  
YOU BETTER  
THINK  
AGAIN!!

DORKY-  
LOOKING?  
DID YOU  
JUST  
SAY IT'S  
"DORKY-  
LOOKING"?

PERVERT!!

I'M  
SHOCKED,  
RISA...

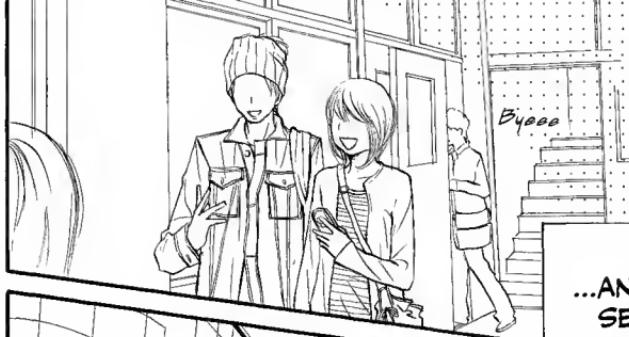
I DIDN'T  
THINK YOU  
WERE LIKE  
THAT, RISA,  
I SWEAR  
I DIDN'T!!

AS IF  
I THINK  
THAT,  
YOU BIG  
DOPE!!

WILL YOU  
GUYS  
LISTEN TO  
ME WHEN  
I'M TRYING  
TO TALK?!

I DON'T  
BELIEVE  
IT...

BZZZZ

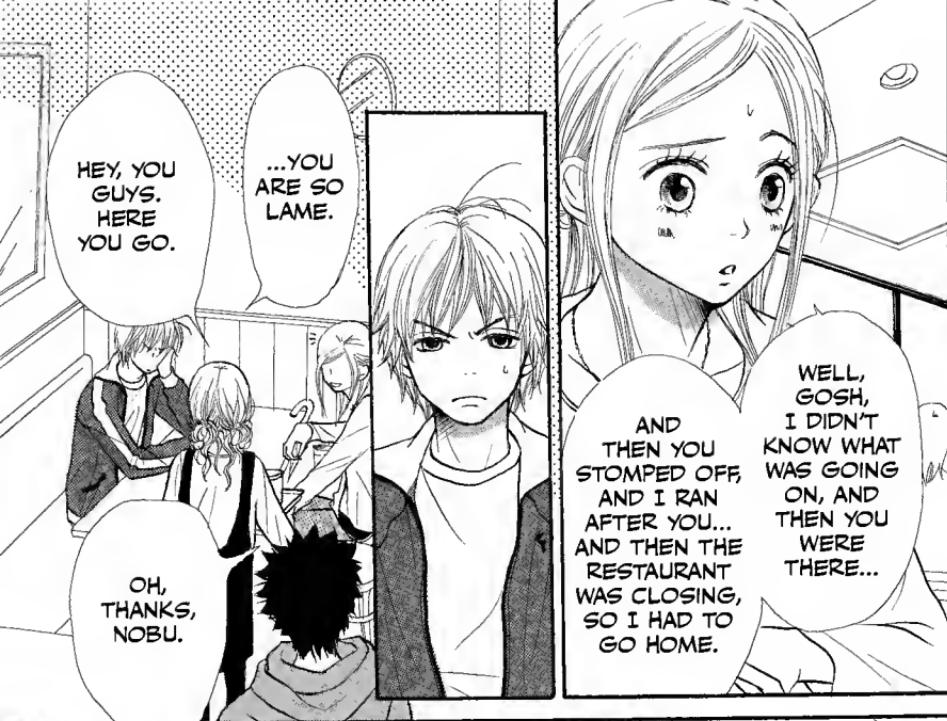


...THOUGH  
I HAVE TO  
ADMIT...

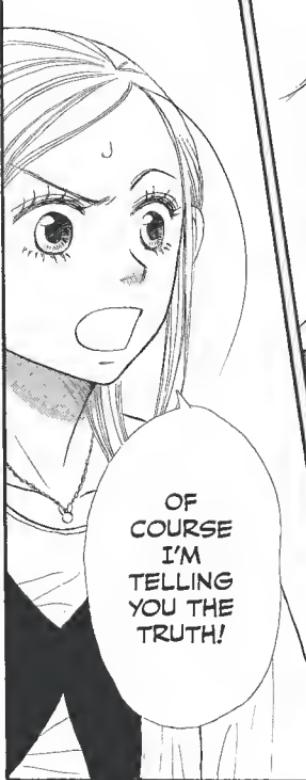


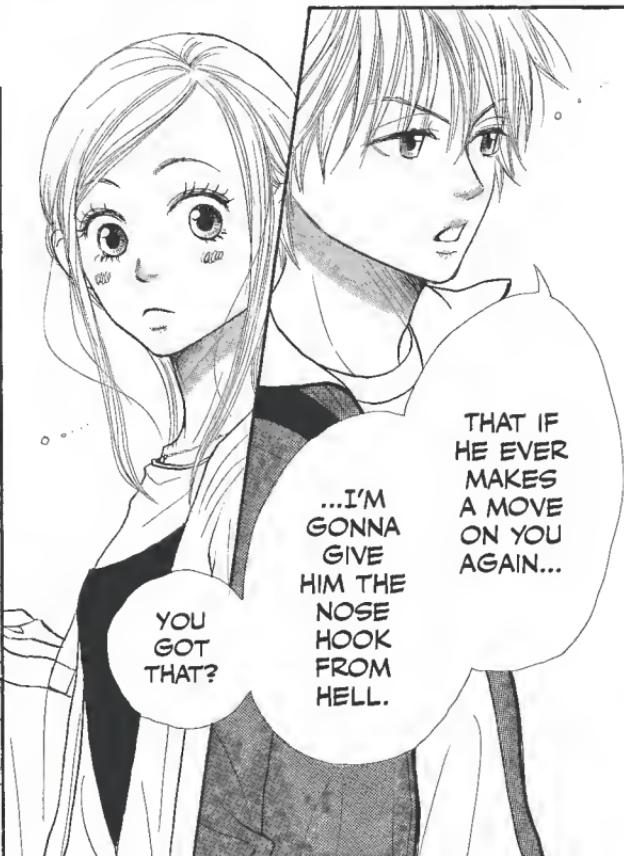
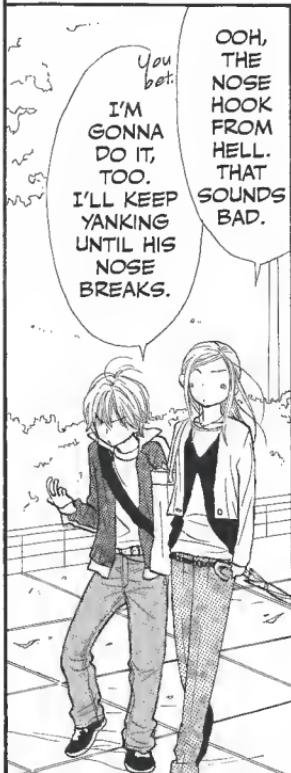
...ANYBODY  
SEEING  
THAT  
WOULD'VE  
GOTTEN  
THE  
WRONG  
IDEA.











BUT...

THOUGH  
ACTUALLY,  
I SHOULD'VE  
JUST BEATEN  
HIM TO A  
PULP WHEN I  
CAUGHT HIM  
RIGHT THERE  
IN THE ACT,  
DARN IT.

HEY,  
IT'S NO  
LAUGHING  
MATTER,  
YOU DITZ!!

TEE  
HEE.

I'M KINDA  
STOKED  
THAT HE'S  
GETTING  
SO MAD  
ABOUT IT.

UH-  
OH.



I GUESS I  
SHOULDN'T  
BE STOKED  
ABOUT ANY-  
THING YET.

I NEED  
TO TALK  
TO KOHORI-KUN  
AND ASK HIM  
ABOUT WHAT  
HAPPENED  
YESTERDAY...





A second Love☆Com drama CD's been released! Wow... boom boom boom pa-twoo pa-twoo!

In terms of the story, it packs in episodes from Vol. 4 to the first part of Vol. 5. And I mean, really packs them in!

The same voice actors who appeared in the first CD gave great performances again in this one. There sure is a lot of talking in this manga... I felt kinda bad...

The new CD has Umibozu, Mrs. Boze, and Mighty appearing for the first time. The voice actors who play them are really great.

If you haven't heard it yet, give it a listen! You'll love it!

pa-twoo pa-twoo







SO  
REALLY,  
DON'T FEEL  
TOO BAD  
ABOUT IT,  
OKAY? I  
MEAN THAT.  
LET'S JUST...



KOHORI-KUN?!

THUNK

HUH  
?!

OMIGOD!  
YOU'VE  
GOT THE  
WORST  
FEVER!

YOU  
SHOULD'VE  
CALLED IN  
SICK AND  
GONE  
HOME!!

WHY'D  
YOU  
COME  
TO  
WORK  
...?

I'M  
OKAY...

ARE  
YOU  
SICK  
...?

...YEAH,  
BUT...

OH NO!  
DON'T  
TELL ME HE  
GOT SICK  
BECAUSE HE  
GOT WET  
IN THE RAIN  
YESTERDAY...

NO, IT  
COULDN'T  
...

WHO  
CARES  
ABOUT  
THAT?!  
THAT  
COULD  
WAIT!

I REALLY  
WANTED TO  
APOLOGIZE  
TO YOU  
ABOUT  
YESTERDAY,  
SO...

LOOK,  
YOU NEED  
TO GO  
HOME  
NOW!!

OH...

BUT...

I SAID  
I'M TAKING  
YOU HOME!  
YOU GET  
HERE BY  
BICYCLE?!!  
WHICH ONE'S  
YOURS?!!

HUH...?

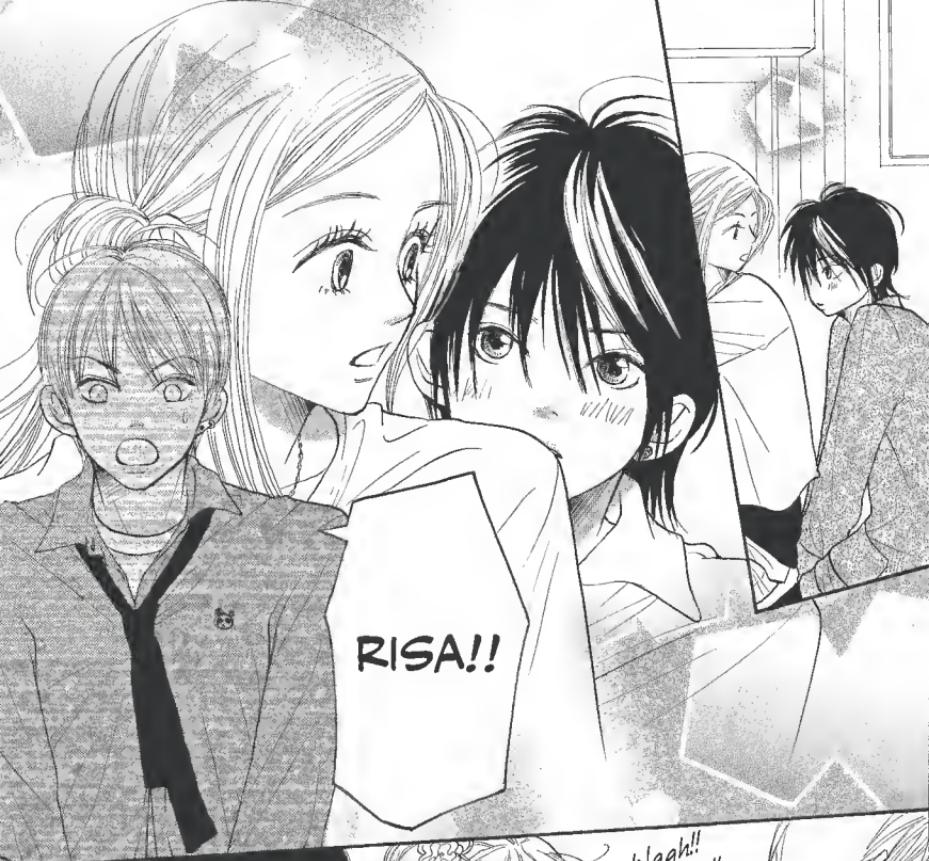
HOW'D  
YOU GET  
HERE?!! BY  
BICYCLE?!!  
I'M TAKING  
YOU HOME!

...MY  
BIKE'S  
OVER  
THERE...

That  
one...

SHAD





UMMM...

THAT GUY WHO  
CAME TO  
PICK YOU  
UP LAST  
NIGHT...

...WAS  
THAT  
YOUR  
BOY-  
FRIEND?

UH-  
HUH?

...I  
FIGURED  
HE WAS...

UMM...

YEAH.

...LEFT  
...

HEY, JUST  
DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
THAT  
ANYMORE,  
OKAY?

LOOK, I  
MADE YOU  
GET SICK  
BY TAKING  
YOUR  
UMBRELLA,  
SO WE'RE  
EVEN.

NOW  
WHICH  
WAY DO  
I GO?

DID YOU  
GUYS GET  
IN A FIGHT  
BECAUSE  
OF WHAT  
I DID?

...I  
CAN'T  
DO IT.

I CAN'T  
SAY ANY-  
THING TO  
HIM WHEN  
HE GETS  
ALL QUIET  
AND  
BUMMED  
OUT LIKE  
THAT.

OKEY-  
DOKEY!

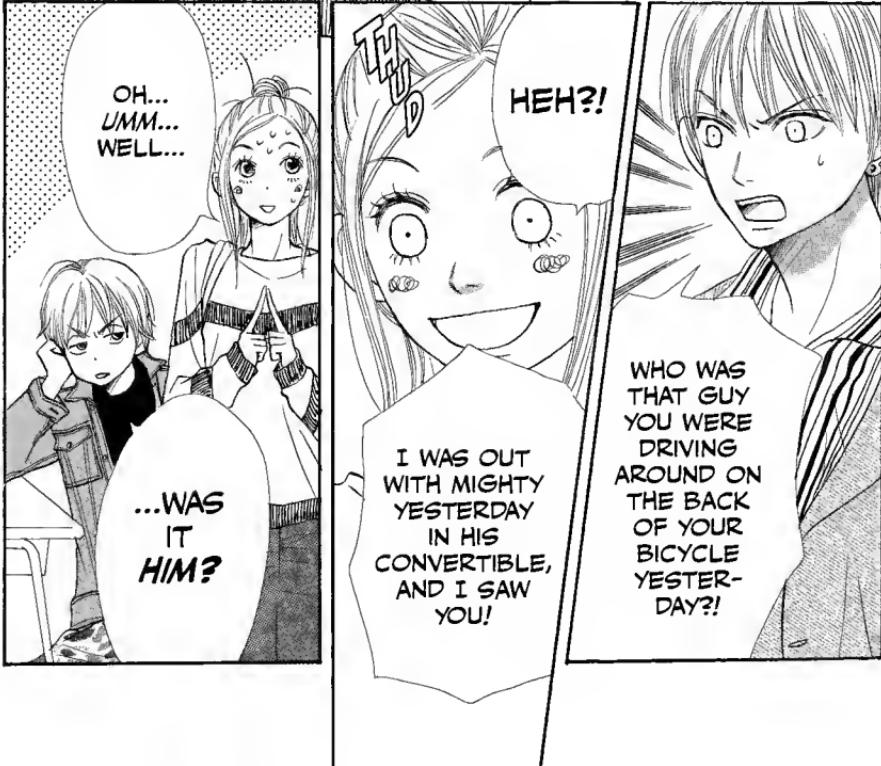
I'M JUST  
GOING TO  
FORGET  
ABOUT IT.  
I'LL JUST  
PRETEND  
IT NEVER  
HAPPENED.

OH  
WELL.

HE SAID  
SOMETHING  
JUST CAME  
OVER HIM.

WHAT?

SO I  
GUESS IT  
WASN'T  
REALLY  
SERIOUS  
OR ANY-  
THING.



I THOUGHT  
YOU HAD  
TO WORK  
YESTERDAY.  
WHAT WERE  
YOU DOING  
BIKING  
AROUND  
TOWN?

RISA'S  
NUMBER-  
TWO  
BOY-  
FRIEND?!

HOW  
COME  
YOU  
HAD TO  
GIVE HIM  
A RIDE  
HOME?

I DID HAVE  
TO WORK,  
BUT KOHORI-  
KUN SHOWED  
UP REALLY SICK,  
LIKE, SERIOUSLY  
CROAKING,  
SO I GAVE HIM  
A RIDE HOME.

I'M NOT  
LIKE YOU,  
HARUKA!  
I ONLY  
HAVE ONE  
BOYFRIEND!

SO  
WHAT'D  
HE SAY  
TO YOU  
ABOUT  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
THE DAY  
BEFORE  
YESTERDAY,  
ANYWAY?

UH...! OF  
COURSE  
NOT!!  
WHAT'RE  
YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?!

I DON'T HE HANDS  
THINK SO! YOU HIS  
I THINK UMBRELLA,  
THAT'S HIS AND IT'S  
STINKING YOUR FAULT  
PROBLEM! HE GETS  
WHAT'RE SICK?  
YOU DOING,  
TRYING TO  
MAKE HIM  
FALL IN  
LOVE WITH  
YOU?!

BECAUSE I  
BORROWED  
HIS UMBRELLA,  
AND THAT'S  
WHY HE  
GOT SICK.

FORGET IT?  
SO WHAT,  
IF HE  
APOLOGIZES  
LATER, HE  
GETS TO  
DO WHAT-  
EVER THE  
HECK HE  
WANTS?!

WELL,  
COME ON,  
IT'S OVER,  
OKAY? HE  
TOTALLY  
APOLOGIZED  
TO ME AND  
EVERYTHING.  
SO LET'S  
JUST  
FORGET IT.

HEY, HEY...  
WHO IS  
THIS?!  
WHO'RE  
YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?!

WHAT?!  
WHAT  
KISS?!

THE  
KISS.

OH YEAH,  
RIGHT!  
LIKE HE  
NEVER  
THOUGHT  
ABOUT IT  
BEFORE?!  
GIMME A  
BREAK!

HE  
SAID  
SOM-  
THING  
CAME  
OVER  
HIM...

WELL,  
WHAT'M I  
SUPPOSED  
TO DO,  
IGNORE  
HIM?!  
COME  
ON!!

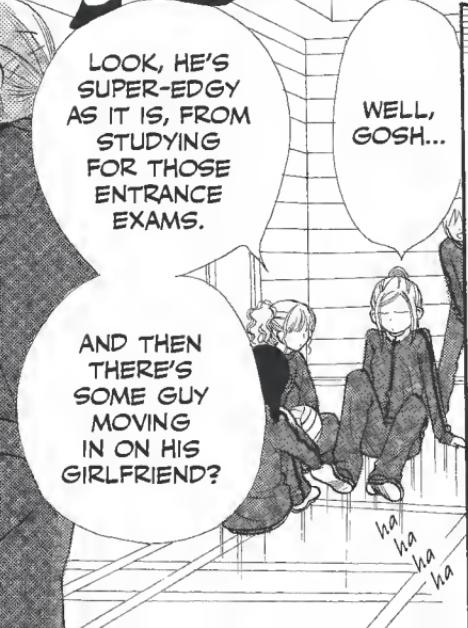
SO  
DON'T  
TALK  
TO HIM  
ANY-  
MORE!!

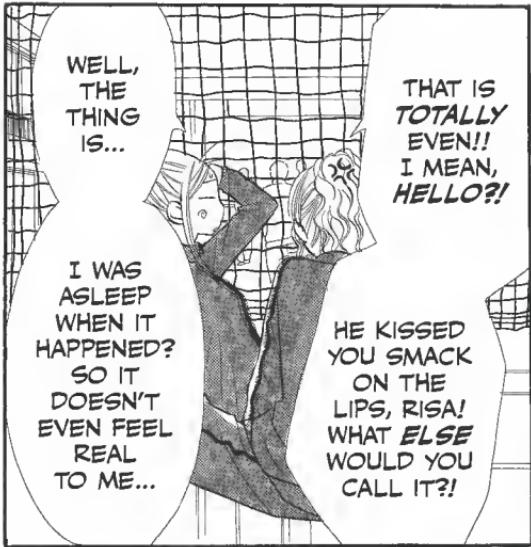
WELL,  
THAT'S  
JUST  
TOO BAD.  
I RUN  
INTO  
HIM AT  
WORK!

HEYYY!  
HEY, YOU  
GUYYY'S!

THAT'S IT.  
I DON'T  
WANT YOU  
ANYWHERE  
NEAR THAT  
DUDE FROM  
NOW ON!

WHY'RE  
YOU SO  
COOL  
WITH IT,  
KOIZUMI?!









JUST  
BECAUSE  
I DECIDED I  
WANT TO GO  
TO COLLEGE,  
WE DON'T  
SPEND  
ANY TIME  
TOGETHER  
ANYMORE.



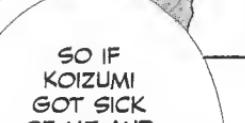
ALL I  
EVER DO  
THESE DAYS  
IS STUDY.  
I GOT NO  
TIME FOR  
ANYTHING  
ELSE.



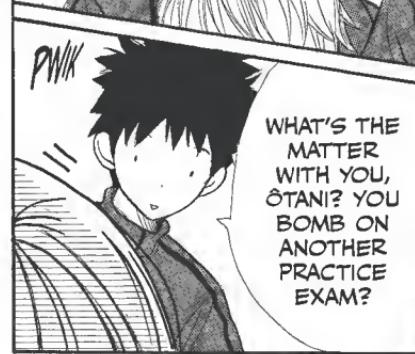
PLUS IT'S  
GONNA STAY  
LIKE THAT  
UNTIL THE  
EXAMS'RE  
OVER. WHICH  
IS LIKE,  
A WHILE.



SO IF  
KOIZUMI  
GOT SICK  
OF ME AND  
STARTED  
SEEING  
THAT OTHER  
DUDE...

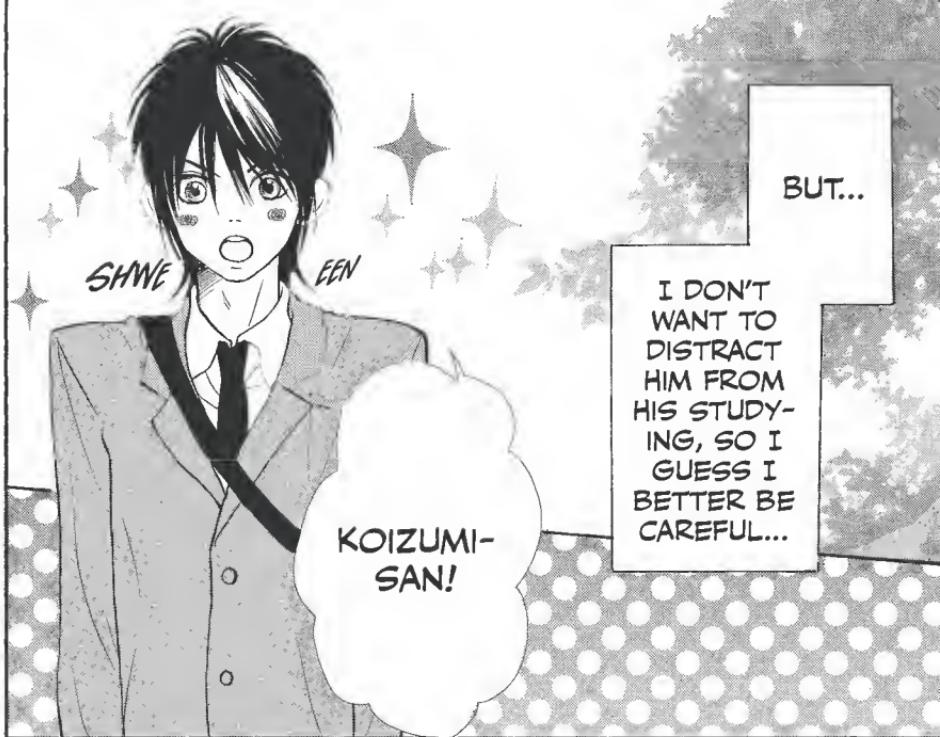


...I DON'T  
KNOW IF I'D  
EVEN HAVE  
THE RIGHT TO  
GIVE HIM A  
NOSE HOOK  
IN THE FIRST  
PLACE. I'M  
NOT TOO  
SURE I  
WOULD...



WHAT'S THE  
MATTER  
WITH YOU,  
ÔTANI? YOU  
BOMB ON  
ANOTHER  
PRACTICE  
EXAM?









AND THEN  
I SWEAR I  
WON'T DO  
ANYTHING  
TO GET IN  
YOUR HAIR  
EVER AGAIN!  
PROMISE!!



JUST  
THIS  
ONE  
TIME!



I REALLY,  
REALLY,  
REALLY  
WANT YOU  
TO GO TO  
THIS SHOW  
WITH ME!



I'M...  
NOT  
TOO  
SURE  
ABOUT  
THIS.



WELL...  
UM.



IS  
THERE  
NO  
WAY...?

...

...BUT IF I GO TO A SHOW WITH HIM AFTER WHAT HAPPENED, JUST THE TWO OF US, LIKE A DATE OR SOMETHING, ÔTANI WILL GO TOTALLY BERSERK.

I MEAN, I THINK OF HIM JUST AS A FRIEND AND THAT'S ALL...

THERE IS NO WAY ON EARTH I CAN GO... IS THERE?  
UH-UH.  
I DON'T THINK SO.

...SO I GUESS THERE'S NO WAY, HUH...?

GWAGH...  
GWAGG-AMWAG-GAGOO...

THE ANSWER IS NO.

SO I CAN'T.

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO NO!







I'M JUST  
GOING TO A  
SHOW WITH  
SOMEBODY,  
THAT'S ALL.

Didja  
wait  
long?

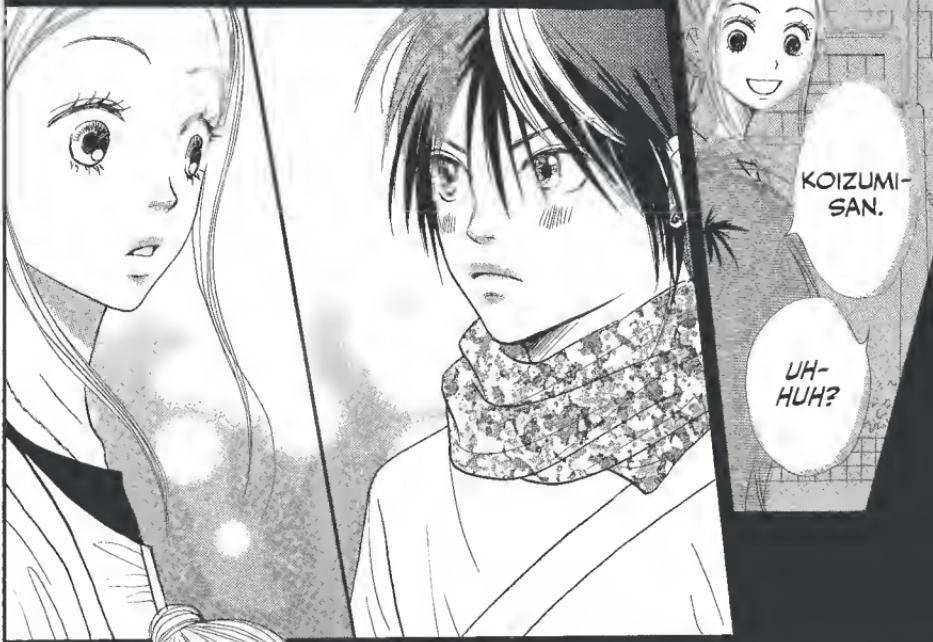
I'M NOT  
ACTUALLY  
TWO-  
TIMING  
HIM.



HE  
DOESN'T  
NEED  
TO KNOW  
IT EVER  
HAPPENED.

blah









TOGETHER.

OH  
REALLY.

SO THE  
TWO OF  
YOU WENT  
TO AN  
UMIBÔZU  
SHOW.

KOHORI-  
KUN...

...NO...

THIS WAS  
ALL MY  
FAULT,  
NOT HIS!  
SO...

THAT'S  
NOT...  
I WANTED  
TO SEE  
UMIBÔZU,  
THAT'S ALL!  
AND  
KOHORI-  
KUN HAD  
TICKETS!



SO  
IF...

...ANYBODY  
DESERVES  
A NOSE  
HOOK HERE,  
IT'S ME,  
NOT...



HEY...

ÔTANI!

I  
BLEW  
IT.

I WAS  
SERIOUSLY  
STUPID TO  
DO THIS...

I DON'T  
REALLY  
CARE  
ANYMORE.

WHAT-  
EVER.

OH  
NO.



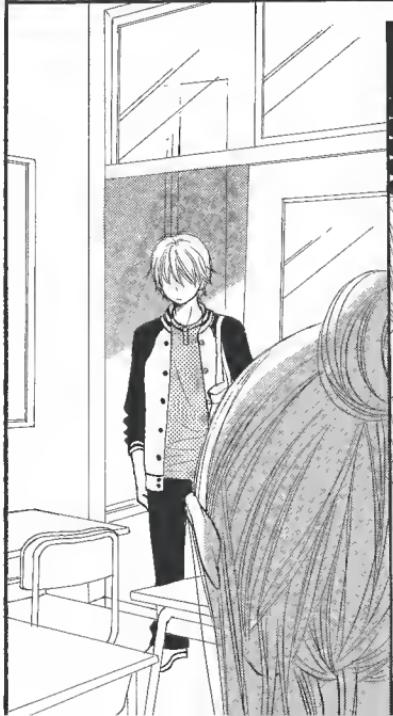
THERE IS  
NOTHING I  
CAN SAY.

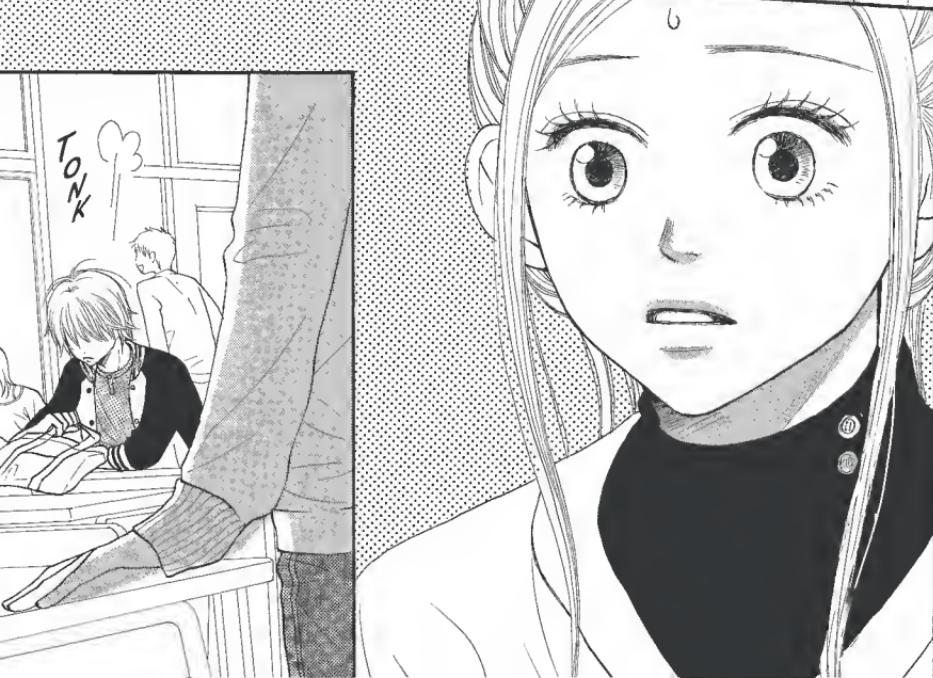
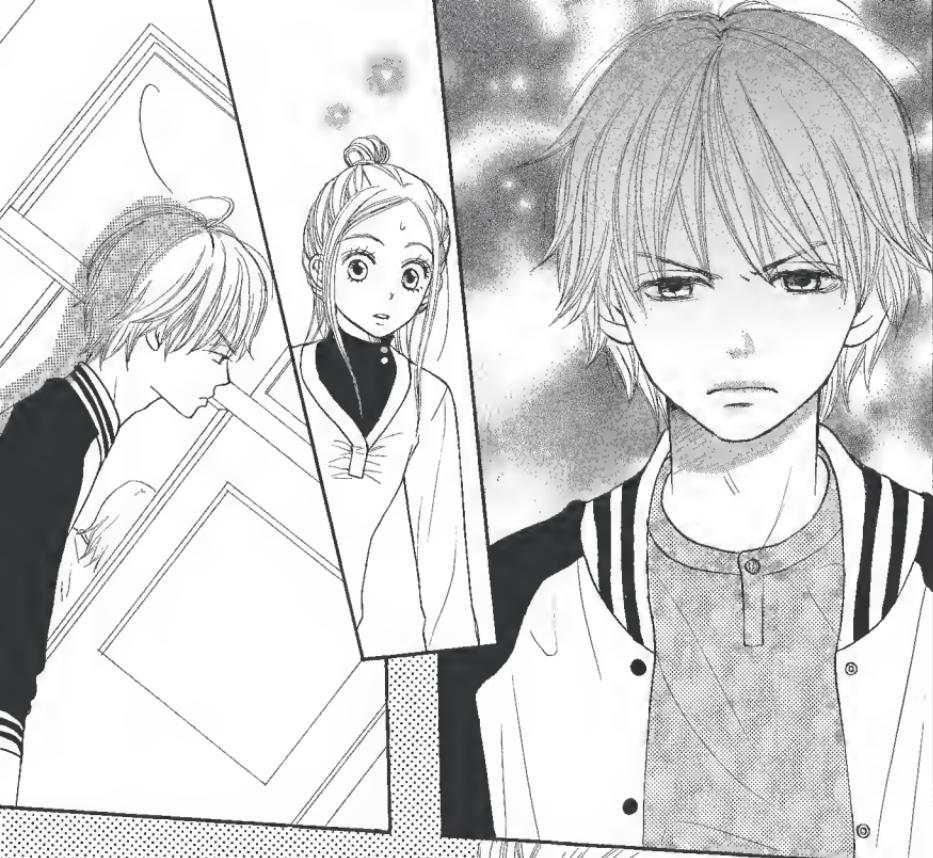
HAVE  
YOU  
LOST  
YOUR  
MIND?!

THIS  
IS ONE  
HUNDRED  
PERCENT  
MY FAULT.

## CHAPTER 39









MAYBE.



DID YOU  
GET MY  
TEXT  
MESSAGES  
...?



HEY,  
UHM...  
ÔTANI...



I'M  
REALLY,  
REALLY  
SORRY,  
I SWEAR  
THAT  
WASN'T...!

JUST  
SHUT UP,  
SCUM-  
BAG!!  
LEAVE  
ME  
ALONE!!



I KEPT  
TRYING  
TO CALL  
YOU BUT  
YOU NEVER  
ANSWERED,  
SO...

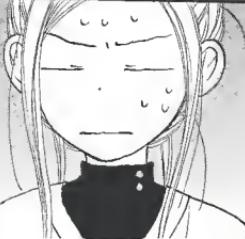
...

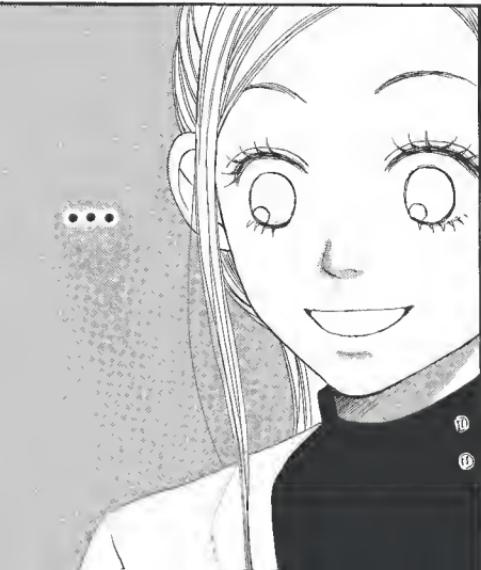
...

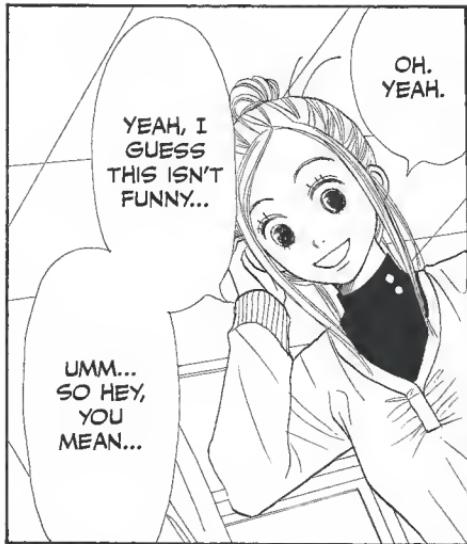
...

...

...







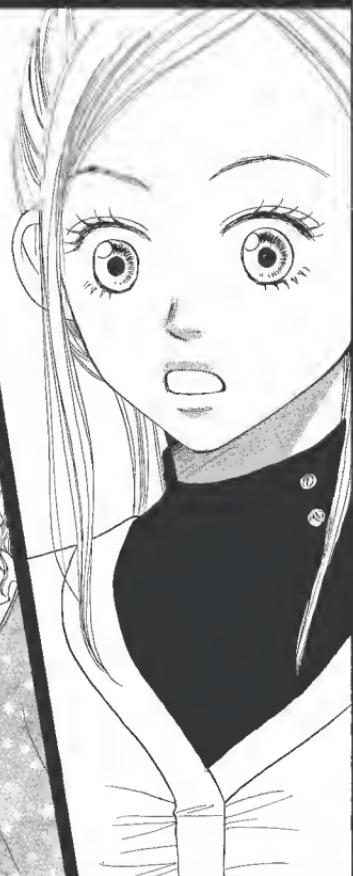
I AM NOT  
GOING  
OUT WITH  
YOU ANY-  
MORE!

BREAK...

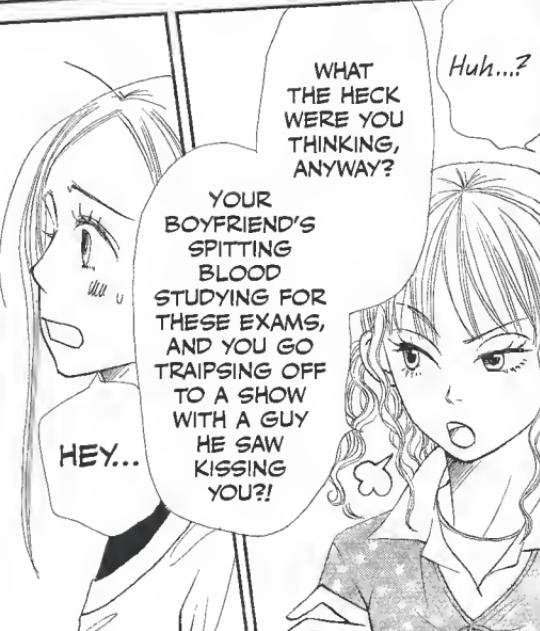
THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
BREAK-  
ING UP!

...

HUH  
?!  
...







ALL OF  
WHAT YOU  
SAID JUST  
NOW WAS  
TRUE...

...NO,  
MA'AM...

RIGHT?!

SOUND  
SO  
WHAT  
?!

DID  
I SAY  
ANYTHING  
THAT  
WASN'T  
TRUE  
JUST  
NOW?!

Gosh...  
You make  
it sound  
so...well...

DON'T  
ASK  
ME!!

YOU GOT  
YOURSELF  
INTO THIS,  
YOU GET  
YOURSELF  
OUT!!

WHAT  
AM I  
GONNA  
DOOO-  
OOO?

WHAT.

...NOBUU-  
UUU...



WAIT...

WAIT UP...

ÔTANI!

ABOUT  
GOING  
TO THAT  
UMIBÔZU  
SHOW WHEN  
YOU WERE  
STUDYING  
SO HARD!

ABOUT  
WHAT?

I AM  
REALLY,  
REALLY  
SORRY AND  
PROMISE  
NEVER TO  
DO ANY-  
THING THAT  
STUPID EVER  
AGAIN!!

...I'M  
SORRY.

hanh

LET GO  
OF MY  
JACKET!!

NO!  
DON'T  
SAY  
THINGS  
LIKE  
THAT  
TO ME,  
COME  
ONNN!!

WHA...?

I GOT  
NOTHING  
TO DO  
WITH YOU  
ANYMORE.

HEY,  
GO TO  
AS MANY  
SHOWS  
AS YOU  
WANT.  
WHAT  
DO I  
CARE?

LEGOO  
OF ME, YA  
DOPE, MY  
ARMS'RE  
ALL  
DANGLING  
LIKE A  
KITTY  
CAT'S!!

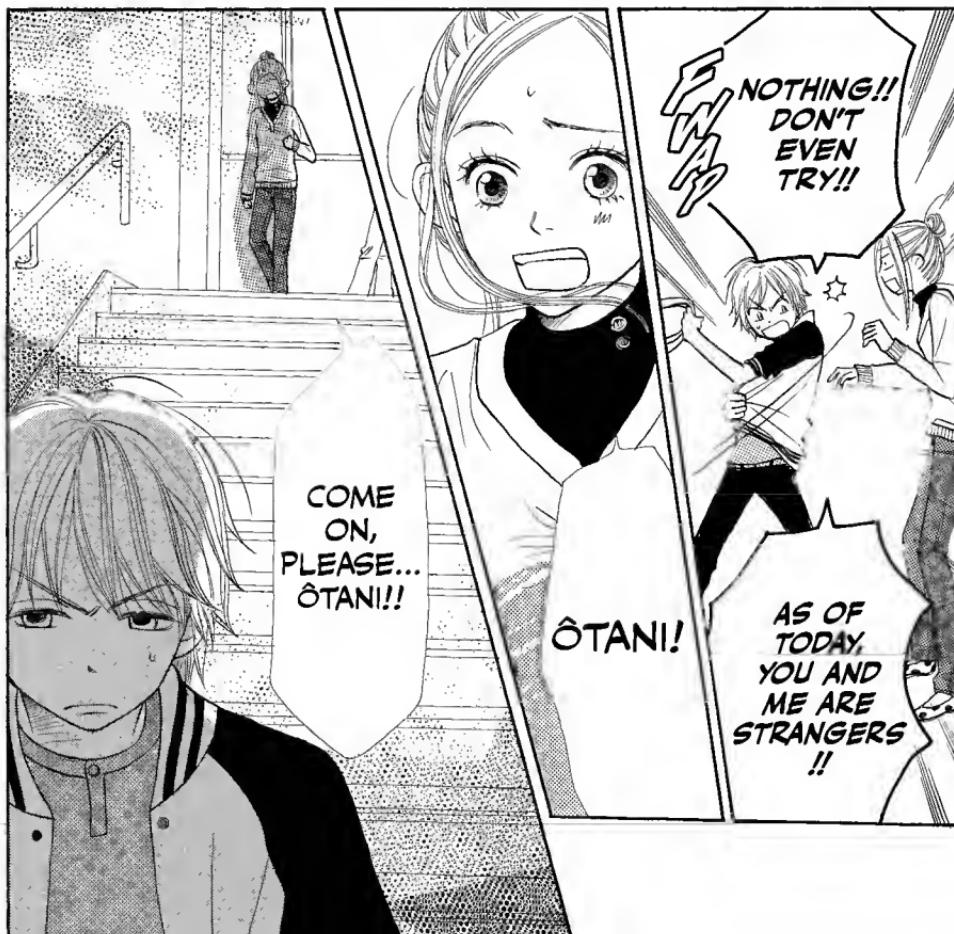
DON'T  
GET  
ALL  
MANLY  
ON ME  
AT A  
TIME  
LIKE  
THIS!!

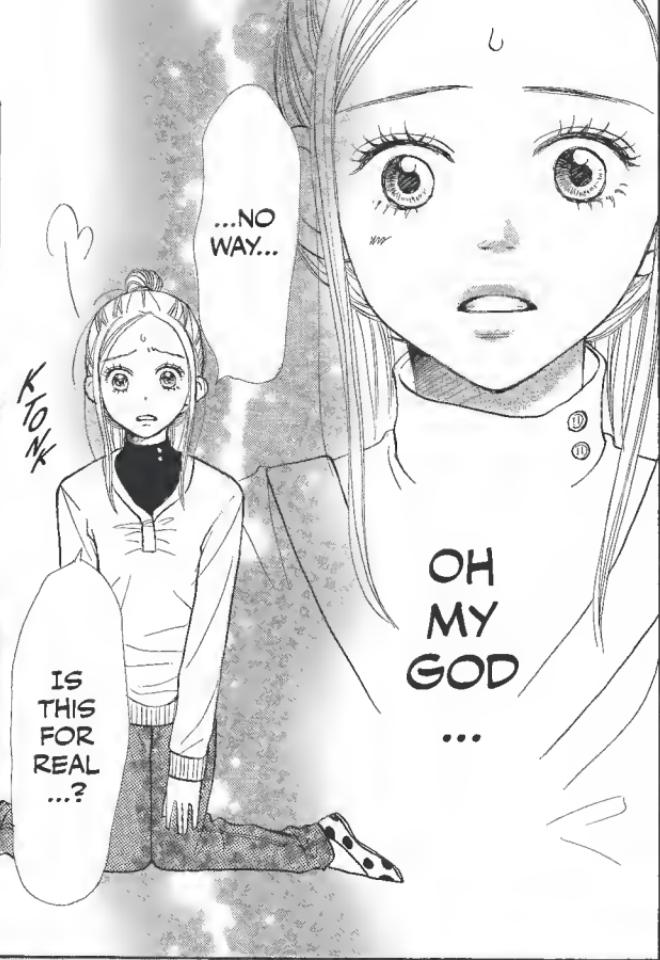
TOO LATE,  
I ALREADY  
SAID IT!!  
AND A REAL  
MAN NEVER  
GOES BACK  
ON HIS  
WORD!!

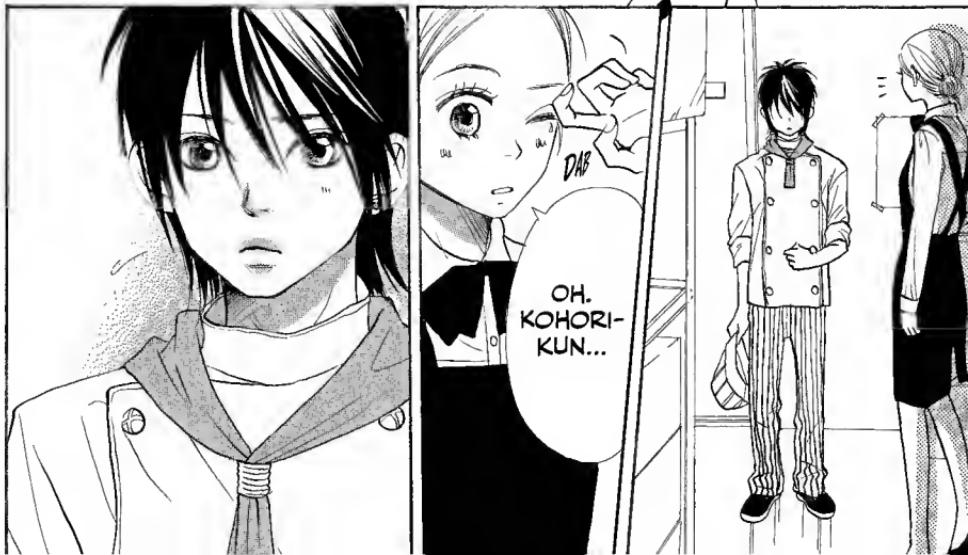
I'M  
REALLY  
SORRY,  
OTANI. I  
REALLY  
MEAN IT!!

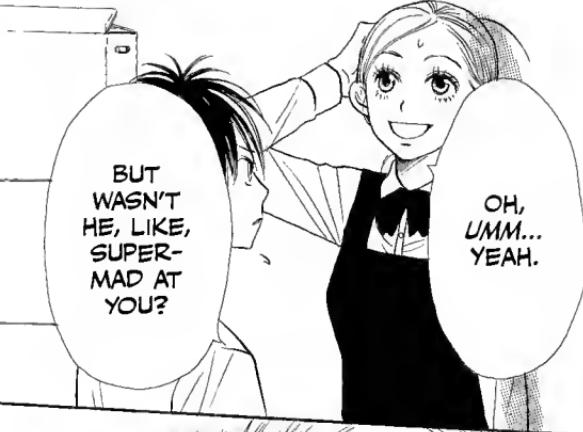
NOOOO  
!!

SO DON'T  
SAY WE'RE  
BREAKING  
UP, JUST  
DON'T!!  
PLEEEZE!!

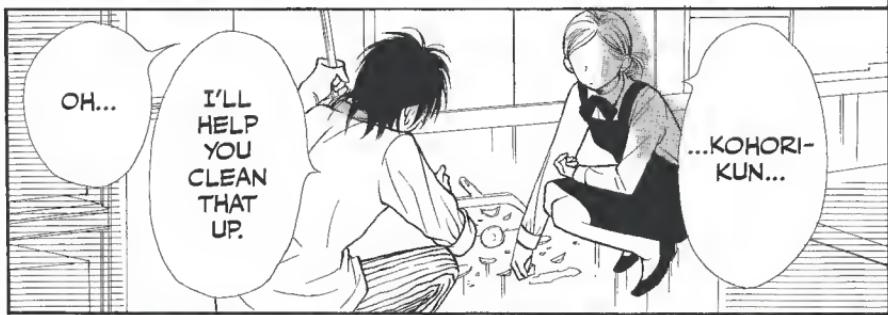












...TELL  
ME YOU  
DIDN'T  
MEAN  
THAT  
ABOUT  
US  
BREAKING  
UP...?

...Koi-  
zumi...

YOU  
CALLED  
ME OUT  
HERE TO  
WAVE  
THAT  
THING  
IN MY  
FACE?!

SO  
WHAT  
ARE  
THEY,  
THEN?

I HAPPEN  
TO BE A  
VERY BUSY  
GUY!!

YOUR  
THOUGHTS.

WHAT  
THE  
HECK  
IS  
THAT?

Sorry  
about  
what I  
said to  
you the  
other day.

YOU  
BET I  
AM!!

YOUR  
THOUGHTS.  
ARE YOU  
REALLY  
BREAKING  
UP WITH  
RISA?

WHAT  
ARE  
WHAT?!

I MEAN FOREVER!!  
YOU WANT THAT IN  
ENGLISH?  
F-O-L-E-  
V-E-R!

WHADDAYA  
MEAN, HOW  
LONG?!

FOR  
HOW  
LONG?

HUH?

X Forever  
 ○ Forever

WRONG.

HUH?

...This is  
why I'm  
breaking  
up with  
her...

THAT  
STUPID  
DITZ.

WELL,  
JEEZ.

YOU  
REALLY  
THINK  
HE'S  
GONNA  
PASS  
THOSE  
EXAMS?

THAT  
BIG  
DOPE  
...



OH YEAH, AND  
BREAKING UP  
WITH HER IS  
GOING TO  
CHANGE THAT?  
I DON'T  
THINK SO.

I CAN'T  
STUDY AT  
ALL WHEN I'M  
WONDERING  
WHAT KOIZUMI'S  
UP TO WITH  
THAT SHRIMP  
AT HER  
WORK...



PWIK

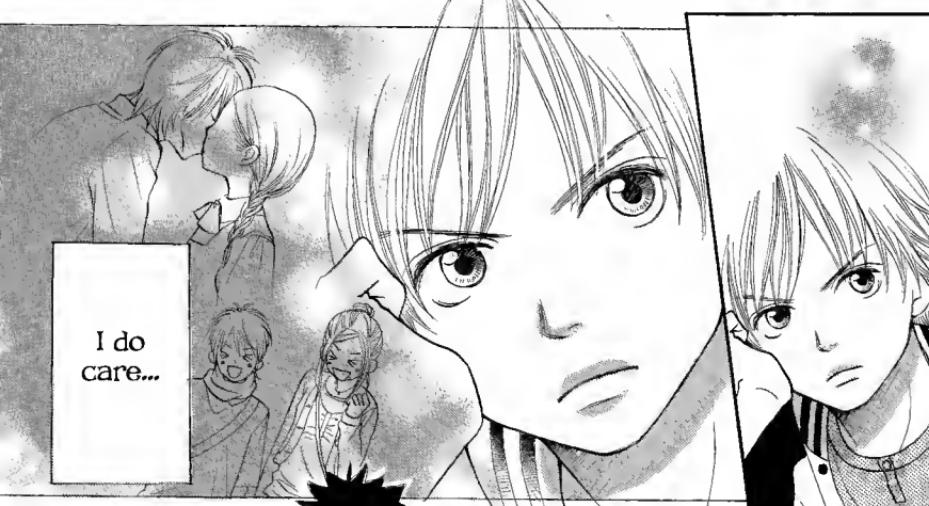
LOOK, I REALLY  
CHEWED HER  
OUT OVER THIS  
TOO, OKAY? AND  
I KNOW THAT  
RISA'S FEELING  
REALLY BAD  
ABOUT WHAT  
SHE DID.

BOY'S  
IT NICE  
TO HAVE  
HER  
OFF MY  
MIND!!

CUZ I AM  
THROUGH  
WITH HER  
NOW!!

WELL,  
I DO  
THINK  
SO!!

UH-  
HUH.

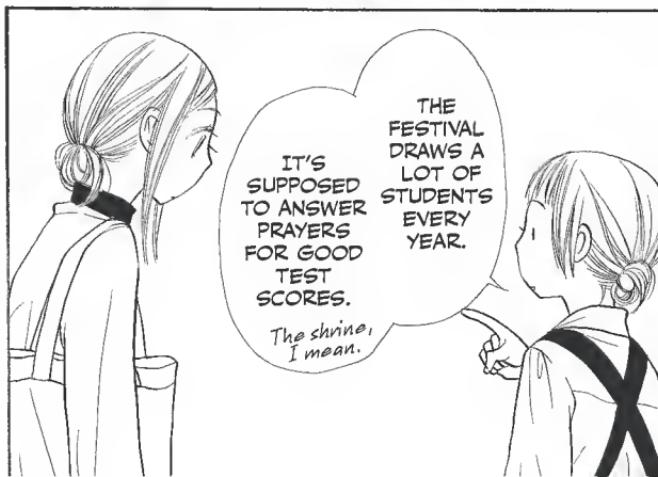




While I'm at it,  
let me plug Hinitsu Kichi  
(Secret Base),  
a collection of short  
manga stories that  
came out last year  
(2004).  bow  
It includes stories  
I wrote while LoveCom  
was being serialized.  
Like one about my boring  
dad. My dad is not funny.  
At all. But that doesn't  
stop him from bothering  
people with lame puns  
and one-liners, oh no.  
He's what Kansai folks  
call an ichibiri. He'll go  
to the store and say  
the dumbest things to  
the clerk and crack  
himself up. He'll pinch  
his daughter-in-lan's  
butt when she's riding  
in front of him on an  
escalator and get a  
giant kick out of that.  
Sometimes I get really  
mad at him for real...

But once every three  
years or so, he'll do  
something that's  
actually funny.  
Like his Kanbi Fujiyama  
imitation when we went  
to a rather fancy  
Italian restaurant.  
That was hilarious.  
He's always asking me  
to write about him,  
so I did.

 pft  
Like his Kanbi Fujiyama  
imitation when we went  
to a rather fancy  
Italian restaurant.  
That was hilarious.  
He's always asking me  
to write about him,  
so I did.



THAT  
IS SO  
PERFECT!!

Yup

IT IS?!  
REALLY?!

BRINGS  
BACK  
MEMO-  
RIES.

WE LOVE YOU!  
GO ÔTANI GO!  
FIGHT!

I HAVE  
SEEN THE  
ERROR OF  
MY WAYS  
AND FEEL  
ABSOLUTELY  
TERRIBLE.

FROM NOW  
ON, I WILL  
DEVOYE  
MYSELF  
ENTIRELY TO  
THE TASK OF  
OFFERING YOU  
AND YOUR  
STUDIES MY  
FULL SUPPORT.

I BEG  
YOUR  
PARDON  
FOR ALL  
THE  
TROUBLE  
I HAVE  
CAUSED  
YOU...



...THROUGH  
MY  
STUPID  
AND  
THOUGHT-  
LESS  
ACTIONS.

MY  
DEAR  
MR.  
ATSUSHI  
ÔTANI,  
SIR.



SO  
PLEASE,  
ÔTANI. I'M  
BEGGING  
YOU...

WHAT'LL  
I MAKE  
HIM?!

OKAY!  
THE ÔTANI  
SQUAD IS  
BACK!!

YEAH! THIS  
SHRINE'S  
FAMOUS  
FOR HELPING  
PEOPLE  
PASS THEIR  
ENTRANCE  
EXAMS!

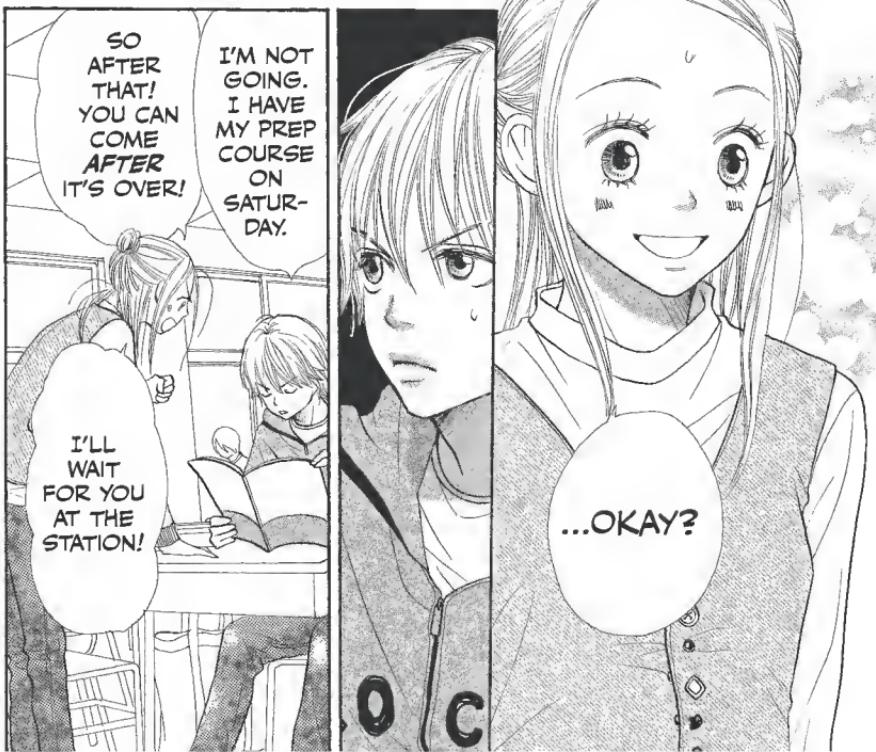
A  
HARVEST  
FESTIVAL?

DON'T  
STAY  
MAD AT  
ME.

I'M  
STILL  
WORKING  
ON IT  
RIGHT  
NOW,  
REALLY  
HARD!

PLUS  
THERE'S  
SOM-  
THING  
I WANT  
TO GIVE  
YOU!  
...LOOK  
...

ROCK







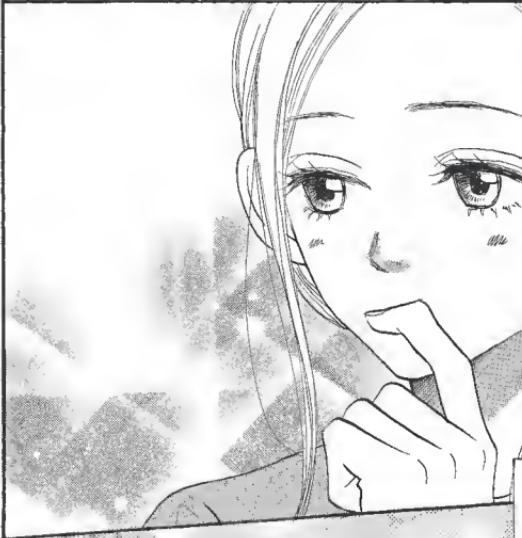
PRK



OWW-  
WWCH!!



WELL,  
I'LL  
BE  
WAIT-  
ING  
ANY-  
WAY!!



I  
KNOW HIM,  
AND HE'S  
COMING  
FOR SURE.



HE'LL  
COME.



BWOOOOFSH

I  
JUST  
KNOW  
IT!!



AND  
THAT'S  
IT FOR  
TODAY,  
FOLKS.

HE IS  
COMING,  
ISN'T  
HE...?

WOW,  
THE  
WIND'S  
KINDA  
STRONG  
...



JUUUUST  
KIDDING!!  
I'M NOT  
LETTING  
YOU OFF  
THAT  
EASY!!

WELL,  
I'LL  
BE  
WAIT-  
ING  
ANY-  
WAY  
!!



YOU GET  
TO STAY  
AND DO A  
SURPRISE  
PRACTICE  
EXAM!! GOD  
KNOWS, YOU  
GUYS COULD  
USE THE  
PRACTICE!!

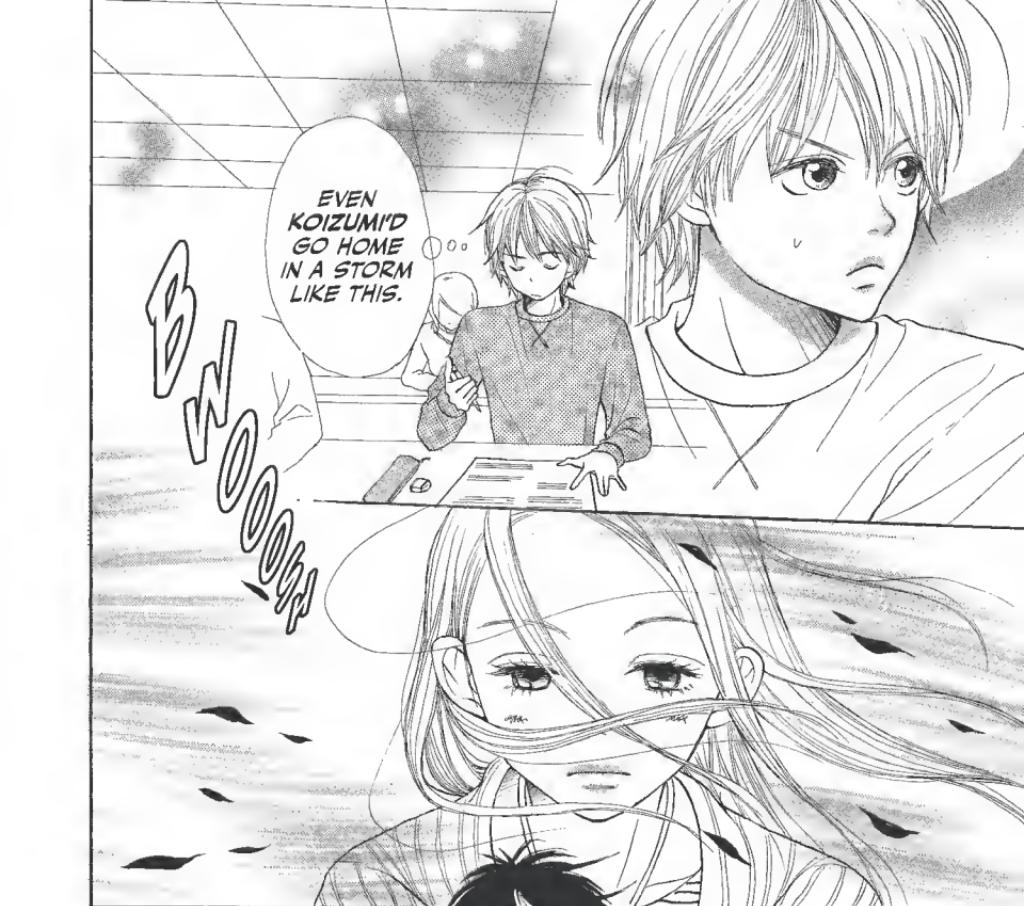
GUESS I  
BETTER  
GO.

LET'S ALL TRY TO  
PASS ON OUR FIRST  
TRY!! COLLEGE,  
HERE WE COME!!

WHAT?!

ZOOM!

THERE'S A  
TYPHON RAGING  
OUTSIDE,  
SO IT'S TOO  
DANGEROUS  
TO GO  
HOME,  
ANYHOW.



EVEN  
KOIZUMI'D  
GO HOME  
IN A STORM  
LIKE THIS.



KYOON!

KOIZUMI-  
SAN?!



I CAN'T GO  
WAIT FOR HIM  
IN FRONT OF  
A TYPHOON  
WHEN HE'S  
JUST BROKEN  
UP WITH ME,  
CAN I...?  
THAT'S KINDA  
CREEPY...

...wonder  
what I  
should  
do...

DO?!

D  
O  
O

COSPLAY CABA

SEE YOU THERE!

NURSE  
HEAVEN

• Inpatient course 60  
• Outpatient course 4  
• ICU course  
Registration fee ¥4,000

HERE

UM...

Yeah  
...?

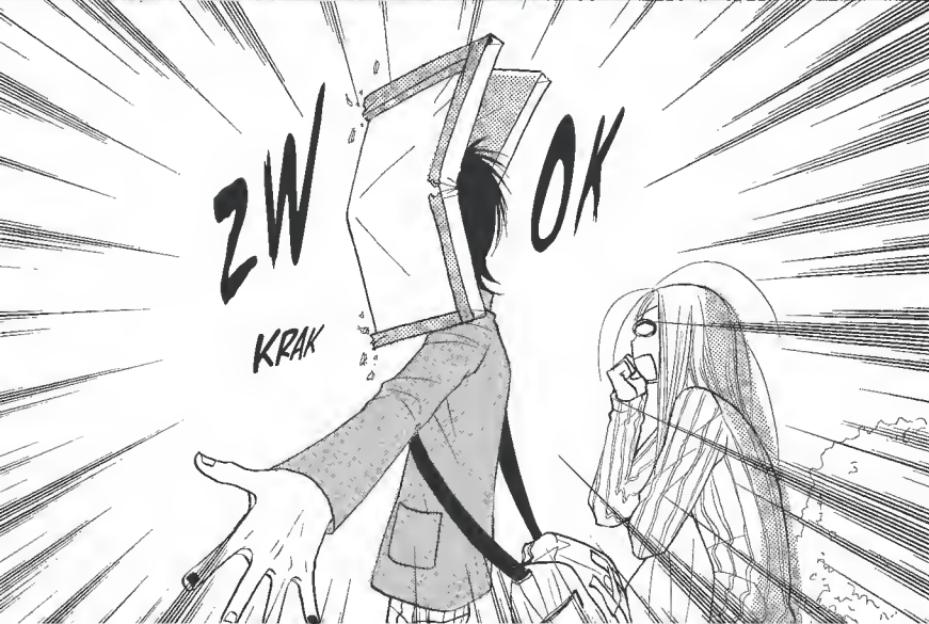
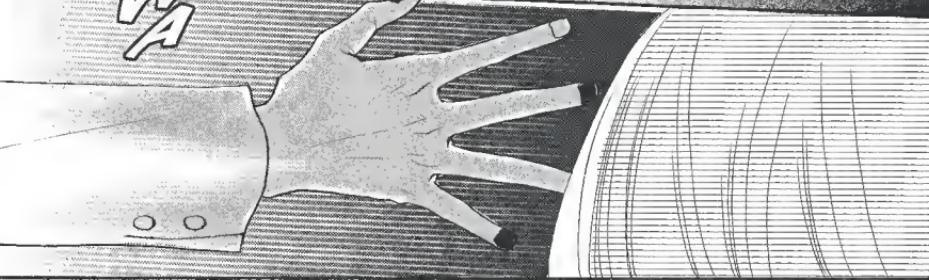
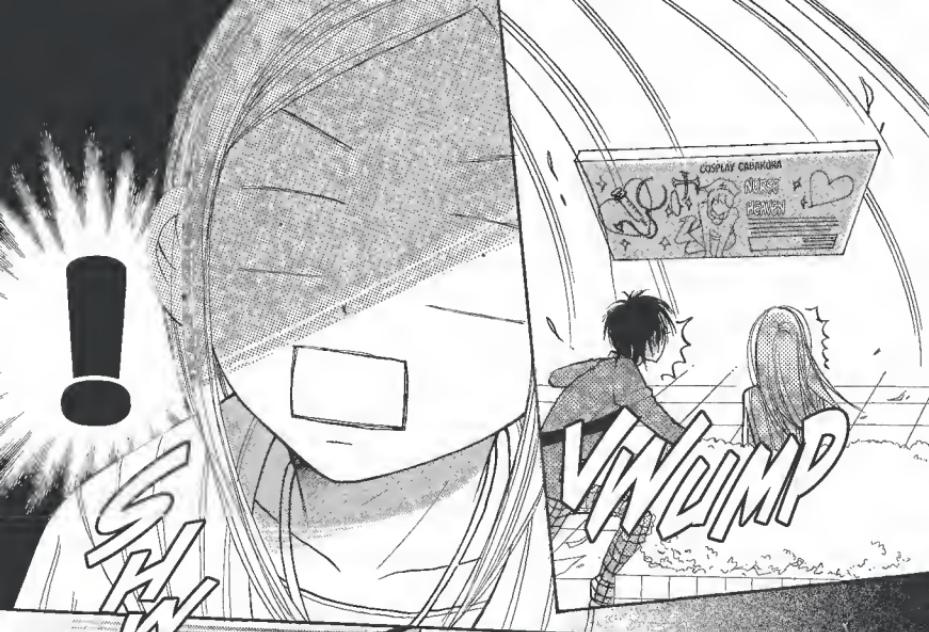
HEY...

KOIZUMI-  
SAN...

WOOH

VWOOSH









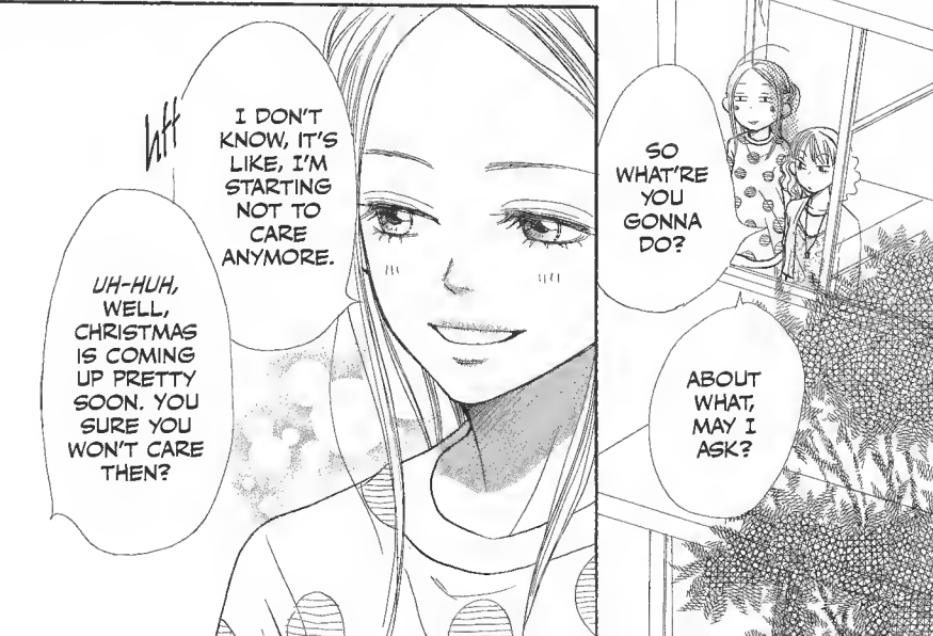
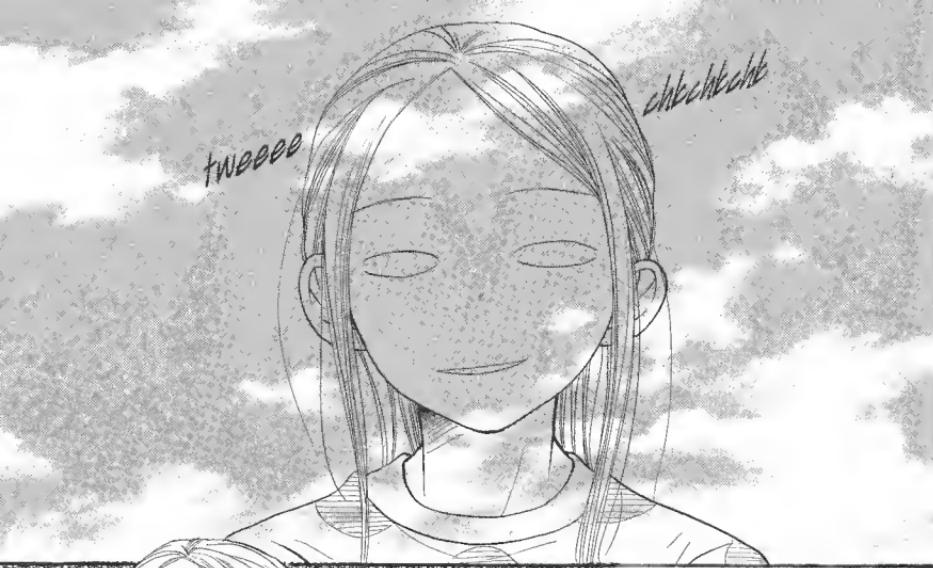
IT'S  
OVER.  
SO  
IT  
WAS  
FOR  
REAL.

Harvest Festival  
canceled due to typhoon



OH MY  
GOD.  
THE TWO  
OF US  
REALLY  
HAVE  
BROKEN  
UP.

hff  
OH, JEEZ,  
GREAT...  
IT'S BEEN  
CANCELED  
...







CHRIST-  
MAS,  
HMM...

I ENDED UP  
SPENDING  
CHRISTMAS  
WITH ÔTANI  
LAST YEAR  
AND THE YEAR  
BEFORE,  
DIDN'T I?

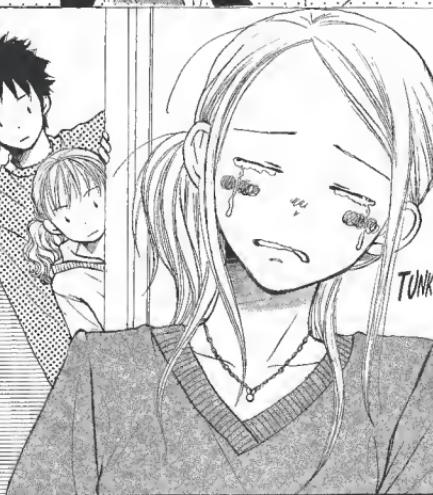
## CHAPTER 40



THIS  
YEAR,  
THOUGH  
...

I AM  
NOT  
GOING  
OUT  
WITH  
YOU  
ANY-  
MORE!

THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
BREAK-  
ING UP!



...I GUESS  
THERE'S  
NO  
CHANCE  
OF THAT  
HAPPEN-  
ING...

YUUP

ÔTANI!!!

!!

!!

!!

!!

!!

!!

!!



IN WHICH  
CASE, STOP  
GLANCING  
OVER AT  
HER ALL  
THE TIME!

I THOUGHT  
YOU BROKE  
UP WITH  
RISA SO  
YOU COULD  
STUDY!

LOOK, IT'S  
NOT FAIR  
TO RISA IF  
YOU SAY  
ONE THING  
AND DO  
ANOTHER!

I'M NOT...

...WHAT?

OH, BABY,  
YOU ARE  
SOOOOO  
COOOL!  
♥

NOBODY  
ASKED YOU  
TO STEP  
IN AND ACT  
CHEESY  
HERE, ALL  
RIGHT?!

Shuddup  
and butt out!!

Ouch

LEAVE MY  
BEAUTIFUL  
NOBU-CHAN  
ALONE.

DO  
ANOTHER?!!  
GET OUTTA  
HERE,  
I'M NOT...

I'M JUST  
TALKING  
TO HER,  
OKAY?!

SHANA

WELL,  
EXCUUUUSE  
ME FOR  
NOT BEING  
COOL!

LEAVE MY  
BEAUTIFUL  
NOBU-CHAN  
ALONE.

WELL, I'D  
DECIDED...

AND THEN  
WHEN I MAKE  
HIM STUFF  
TO CHEER  
HIM ON IT  
GETS BLOWN  
AWAY BY  
THE WIND.

SO  
THAT'S  
WHAT  
IT WAS.

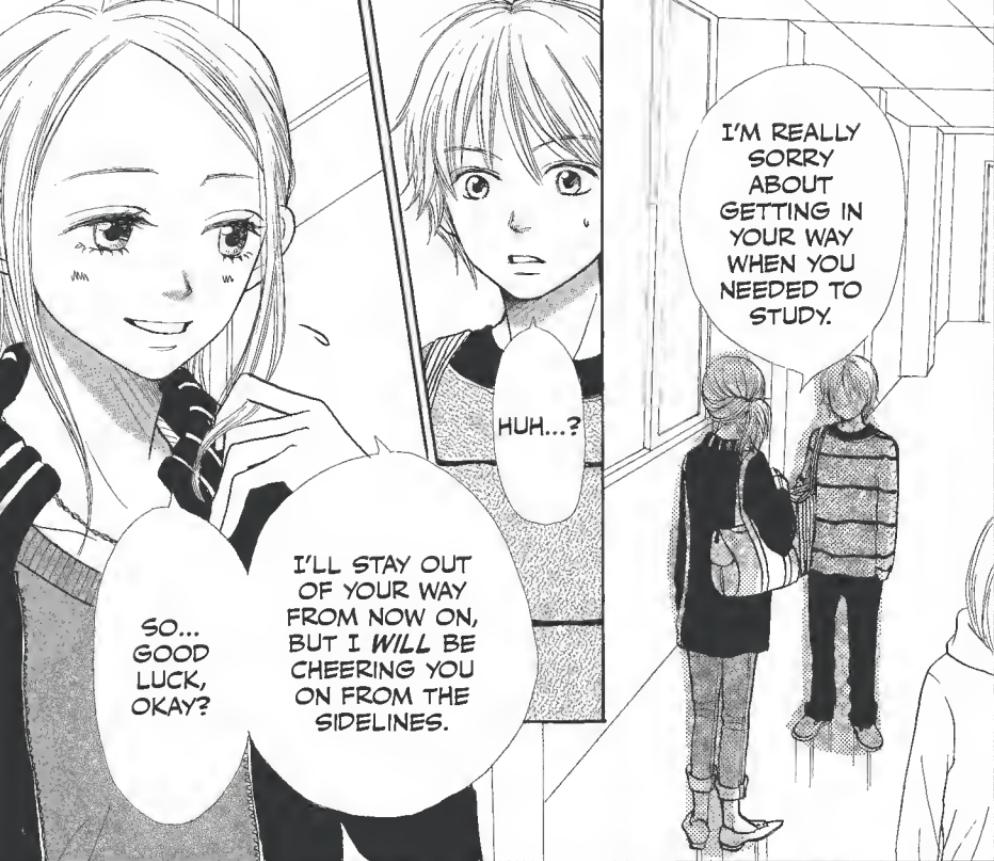
...I WAS  
GOING TO  
SUPPORT HIM  
A HUNDRED  
PERCENT.  
SO I GUESS  
THAT MEANS...

I'M  
TOTALLY  
GETTING  
IN HIS WAY  
WHEN HE'S  
TRYING TO  
STUDY...

HEY,  
ÔTANI?

So.  
ya.

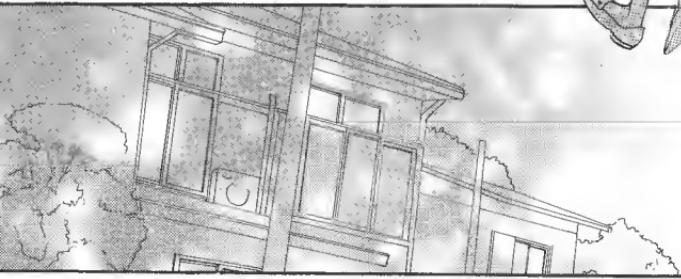
WELL,  
I GUESS  
HE'S  
RIGHT  
ABOUT  
THAT...







GOOD-BYE, ÔTANI.



IT WAS A LOT OF FUN WHILE IT LASTED...



I DON'T  
CARE IF  
YOU DON'T  
SPEND  
ANY TIME  
WITH ME  
ANYMORE.

I  
MEAN  
IT,  
ÔTANI.

HUH?  
WHAT  
DID YOU  
SAY?

...I'M  
INTO  
SOMETHING  
ELSE  
NOW. IT'S  
CALLED  
ÔTANI...

DING  
DONG

I JUST  
WANT YOU  
TO DO  
WELL ON  
THOSE  
EXAMS.

WHAT  
IS IT?

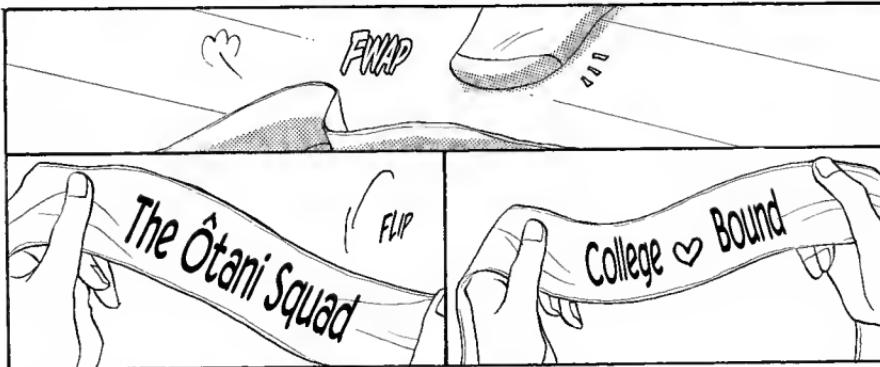
HUH?

MR. YOSHII  
BROUGHT  
THIS OVER,  
SAYING HE  
THOUGHT IT  
MIGHT BE  
YOURS.

YOO-  
HOO!!

ATCHA-  
AAAN!







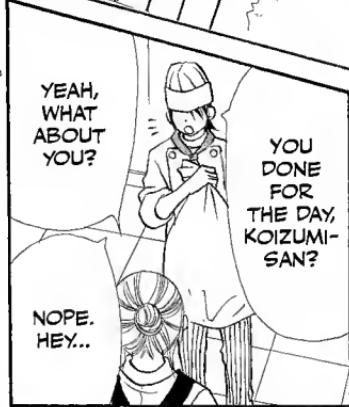
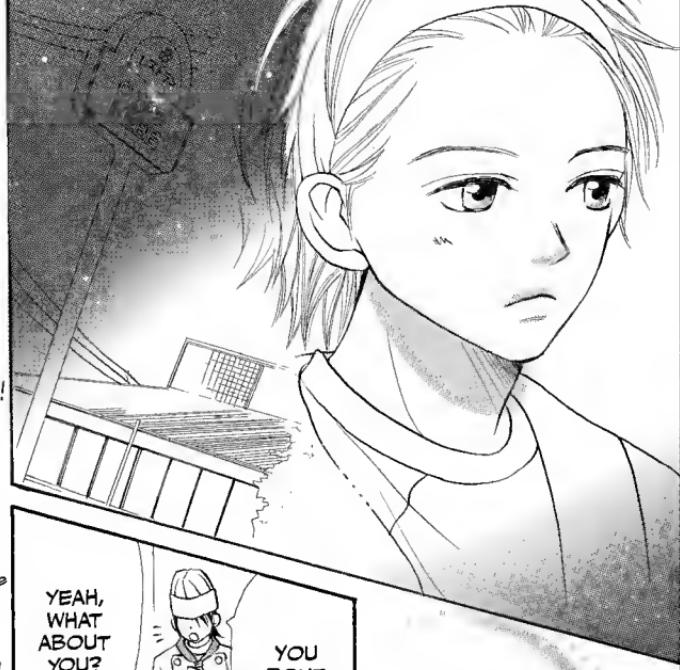
Nail polish is a no-no if you work in a restaurant kitchen! I used to have a job in a restaurant kitchen myself, so I know about these things, see, and I actually drew a scene where Kohori-kun gets in trouble for it. It didn't fit, though, so I had to cut it and never got a chance to work it in anywhere else. So let me get on with this case now: Hey, you! No polish! So. Anyway.

Thank you for even reading these little sidebars.

Next up, Volume 11! If you can, please stick around with us a little longer.

Well, then, see you! pa-fuoo pa-fuoo!

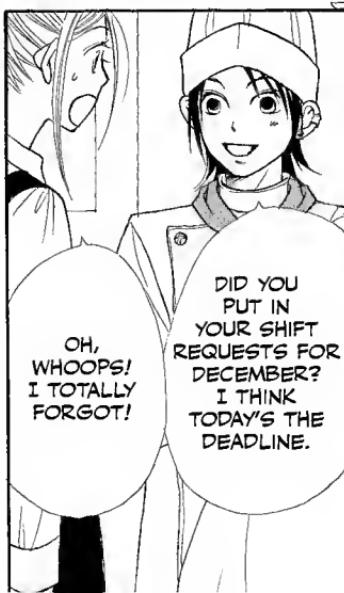
Aya  
Feb. 2005



YEAH,  
WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOU?

YOU  
DONE  
FOR  
THE DAY,  
KOIZUMI-  
SAN?

OH  
GOSH...

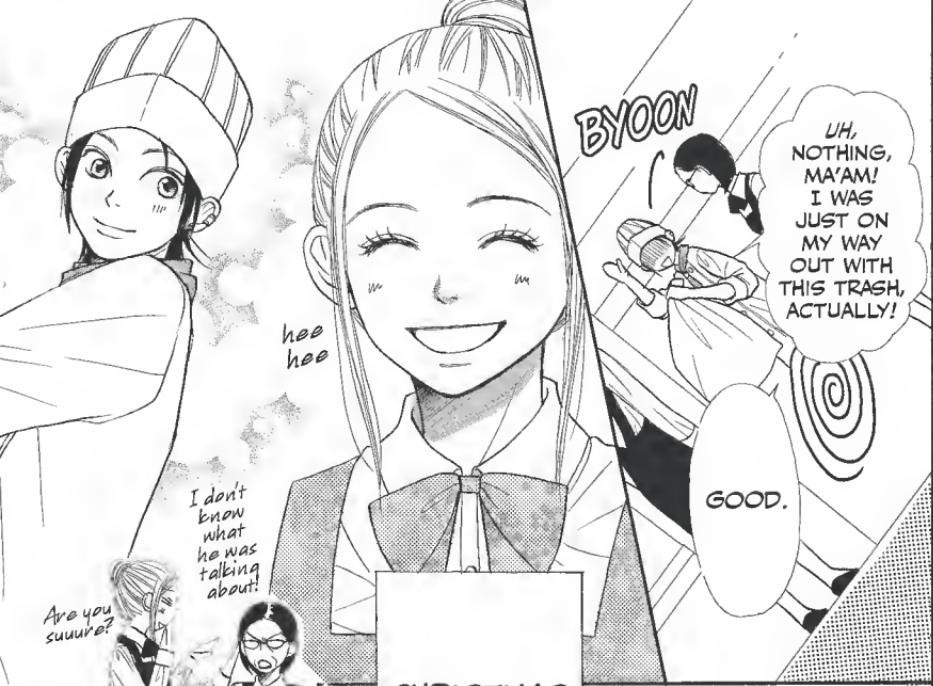


OH,  
WHOOPS!  
I TOTALLY  
FORGOT!

DID YOU  
PUT IN  
YOUR SHIFT  
REQUESTS FOR  
DECEMBER?  
I THINK  
TODAY'S THE  
DEADLINE.











...AT  
FIRST, I  
THOUGHT  
...



SHE  
ROCKS  
MY  
WORLD.



DON'T  
APOLO-  
GIZE  
TO ME  
ABOUT  
IT.

I'M  
REALLY  
SORRY.



I JUST  
HAD SO  
MUCH FUN  
BEING  
WITH HER,  
SO...

... I'D JUST  
GO TO THAT  
ONE SHOW  
WITH HER,  
AND THEN I'D  
TRY TO GET  
OVER HER.  
BUT THEN,  
WELL...



SO THEN  
I WANTED  
TO HANG  
OUT WITH  
HER SOME  
MORE, AND  
STARTED  
LIKING  
HER EVEN  
MORE...

HOW  
DO YOU  
KNOW...

THEN  
I'M NOT  
GONNA  
HOLD  
MYSELF  
BACK  
AROUND  
HER  
ANYMORE.

...I  
GUESS  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.

YOU  
AREN'T  
GOING  
OUT  
ANYMORE,  
ARE  
YOU?



FW000



KREE

WHAT'S SO  
CHEESY  
ABOUT IT?  
IT'S THE  
TRUTH!!

WELL, GOSH,  
SHE JUST  
LOOKED SO  
BEAUTIFUL  
THAT TIME,  
I COULDN'T  
HELP IT...

ARGH,  
WILL YOU  
JUST SHUT  
UP?! YOU  
DARN  
SHRIMP!!

HOW CAN YOU  
GO AROUND  
SAYING CHEESY  
STUFF LIKE  
THAT WITHOUT  
BATTING AN  
EYE, JEEZ?!

GYAA-  
AGH!

SHRIMP?!

I THOUGHT  
YOU SAID I  
WAS TALLER  
THAN YOU!

WHO  
CARES, A  
SHRIMP'S  
A SHRIMP!!

...

WHAT'RE  
YOU  
GUYS  
DOING  
...?

ÔTANI  
...?





HUH?

OH.  
OKAY!

...AND  
THAT  
"GO  
FOR IT"  
JACKET. "COLLEGE"  
HEADBAND...

...YOU  
DIID?!

OH  
REALLY  
...

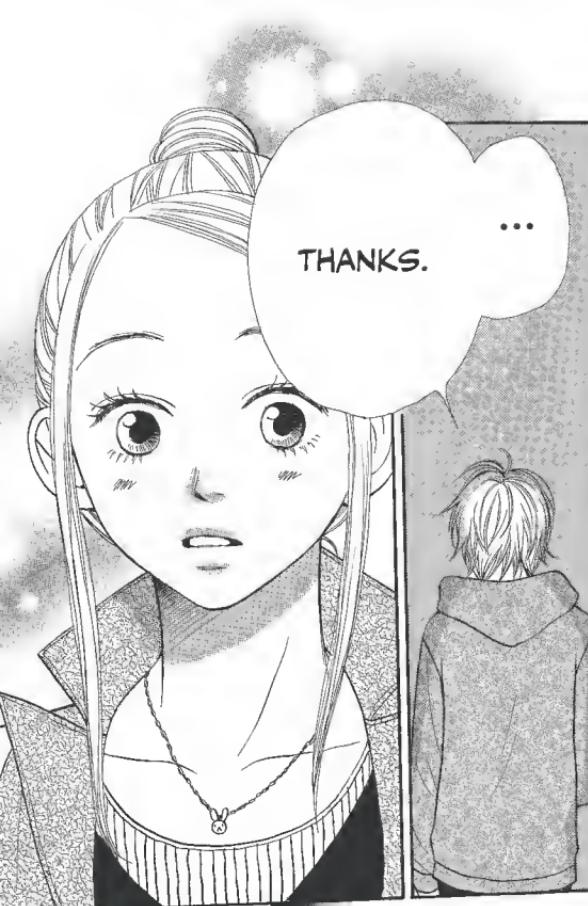
...WHAT  
ABOUT  
CHRISTMAS  
EVE?

THIS  
POLICE  
OFFICER  
WHO LIVES  
IN OUR  
NEIGHBOR-  
HOOD  
BROUGHT  
IT OVER.

BUT...!  
BUT  
HOW...?!

WHY'D  
YOU  
COME  
OVER?

OH...  
THERE'S SOME  
PARTY AFTER  
WORK WITH ALL  
THE PEOPLE  
FROM THE  
RESTAURANT...



IT WENT FLYING AWAY IN THE WIND, SO I THOUGHT...

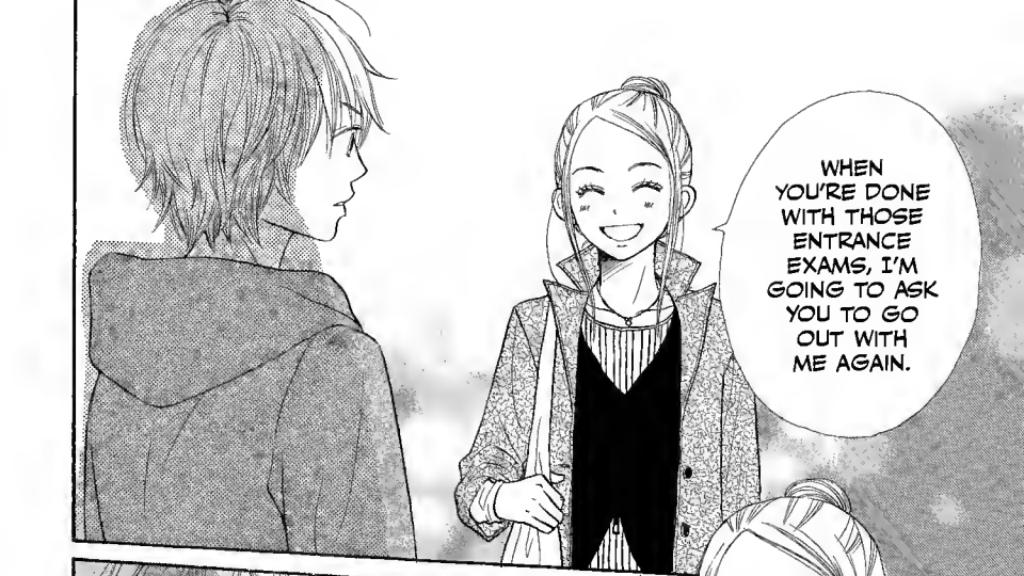
BUT WOW... THAT'S GREAT...



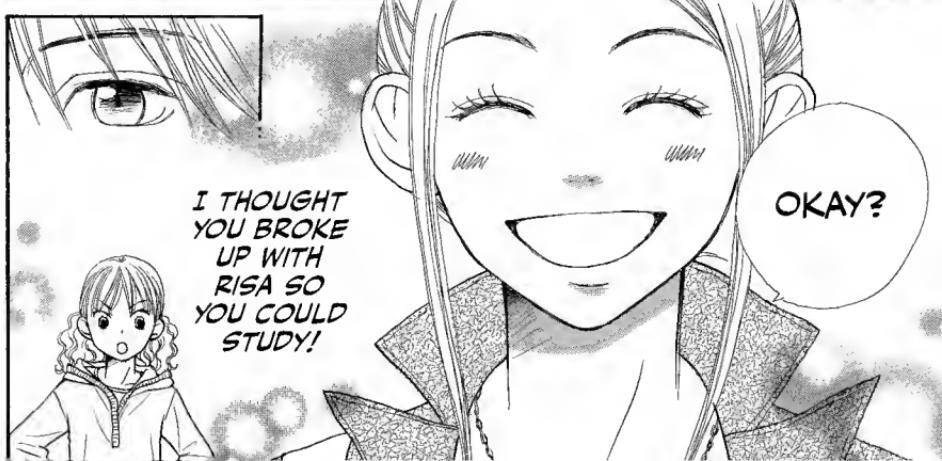
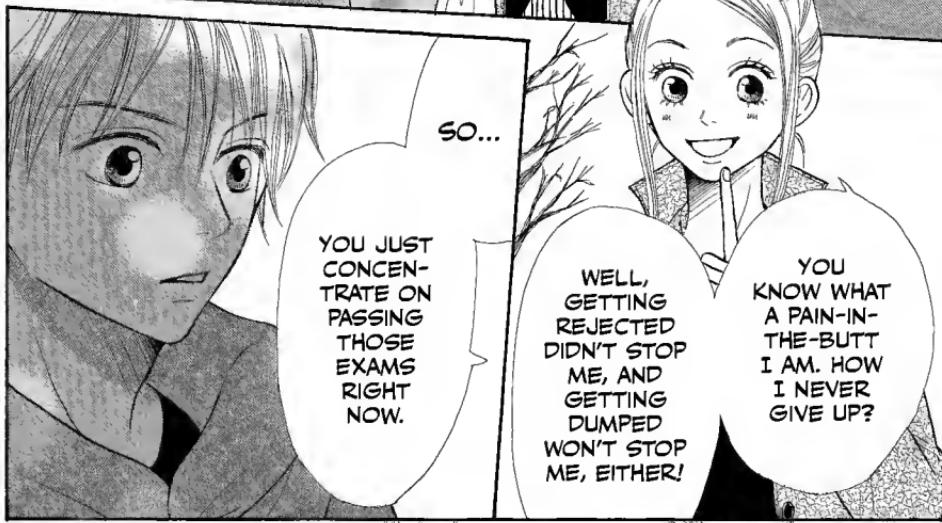
ÔTANI...

IS THAT WHY YOU CAME? TO TELL ME THAT...?

HEY, ÔTANI ?



WHEN  
YOU'RE DONE  
WITH THOSE  
ENTRANCE  
EXAMS, I'M  
GOING TO ASK  
YOU TO GO  
OUT WITH  
ME AGAIN.







I CAN  
START  
OVER  
AGAIN.  
AS MANY  
TIMES AS  
IT TAKES.

I AM  
TOTALLY  
FINE.



IT DOESN'T  
MATTER IF  
HE GETS  
SICK OF ME  
OR THINKS  
I'M A PAIN.

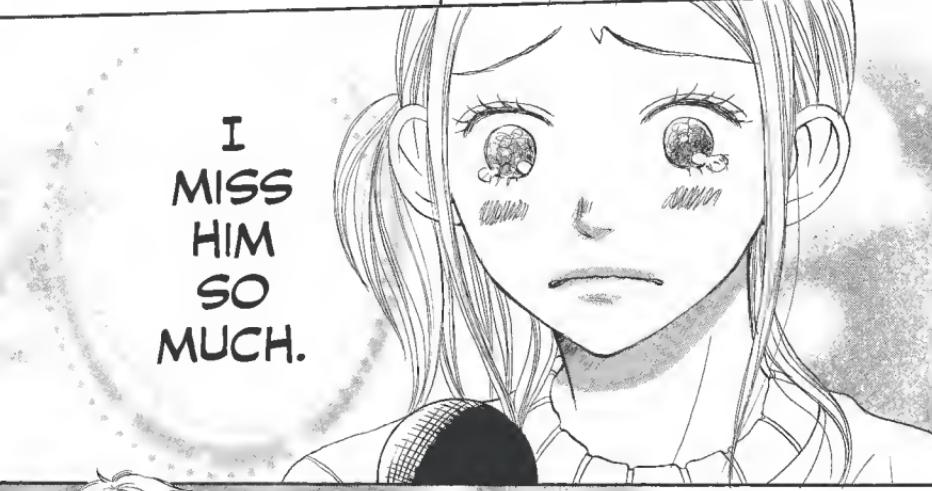
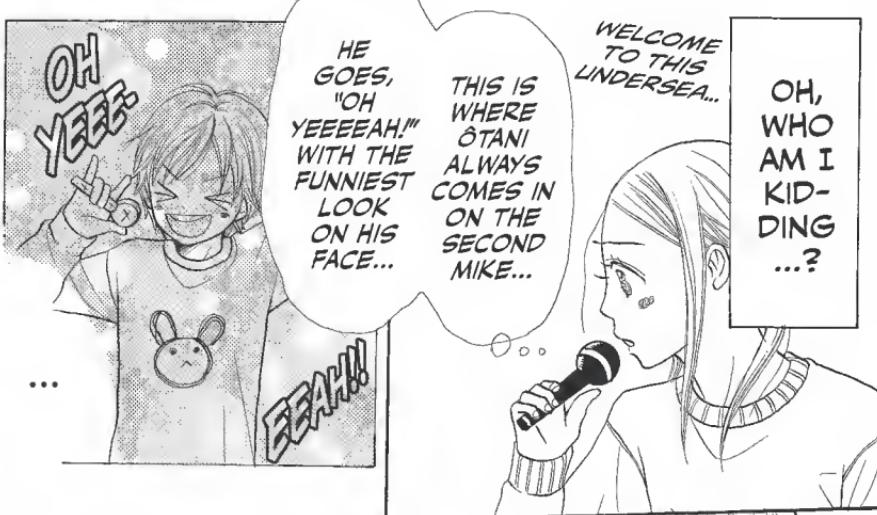
BECAUSE  
I'LL JUST  
WORK  
REALLY  
HARD TO  
MAKE HIM  
LOVE ME  
AGAIN.



SO I AM  
TOTALLY FINE  
WITH BEING  
ALONE THIS  
CHRISTMAS.







TAKE A  
BREAK  
SOME-  
TIMES.  
ATCHAN.  
YOU'RE  
STUDYING  
TOO  
HARD.

UH-  
HUH...

YOU  
LOOK  
AWFUL.  
HAVE YOU  
LOST  
WEIGHT?

College Bound

...HUH  
...?

YOU DON'T HAVE  
ANY TIME FOR  
RISA-CHAN THESE  
DAYS, DO YOU?  
SHOULDN'T YOU  
BE SPENDING  
CHRISTMAS WITH  
HER, AT LEAST?

YEAH, SHE  
WAS WITH A  
BOY. LITTLE  
FELLA, ABOUT  
YOUR HEIGHT.

...YOU  
DID...?

I SAW HER  
NEAR THE  
STATION A  
LITTLE WHILE  
AGO, WHEN  
I GOT THE  
CAKE.

THINK  
ABOUT  
CHRISTMAS  
EVE,  
OKAY?!

I'M NOT  
GONNA  
HOLD  
MYSELF  
BACK  
AROUND  
HER  
ANYMORE.



YOU  
LISTENING  
TO ME,  
ATCHAN?

YOU BETTER  
BE NICE TO  
HER, ATCHAN.  
NOT MANY  
GIRLS WOULD  
PUT UP WITH  
A BOYFRIEND  
AS STUPID AS  
YOU ARE.

WONDER  
WHY.  
MAYBE  
BECAUSE  
IT'S  
CHRISTMAS.

**BAM**

GO FOR IT!  
ÔTANI  
FIGHT!

ATCHAN  
?!

I JUST  
REALLY  
NEED  
TO SEE  
HIM.

KOIZUMI-  
SAN!!

ARE YOU  
GOING  
OVER  
TO YOUR  
BOY-  
FRIEND'S  
...?

DON'T  
GO,  
KOIZUMI-  
SAN.  
PLEASE.

WELL, HE  
ISN'T MY  
BOYFRIEND  
ANYMORE,  
BUT YEAH.

WELL,  
SOMEONE  
WHO CARES  
MORE  
ABOUT HIS  
EXAMS THAN  
ABOUT YOU  
DOESN'T  
DESERVE  
TO...

DON'T  
GO...

HE'S  
STUDYING,  
RIGHT?!  
SO LET  
HIM STUDY!  
THAT'S WHY  
HE BROKE  
UP WITH YOU,  
RIGHT?!

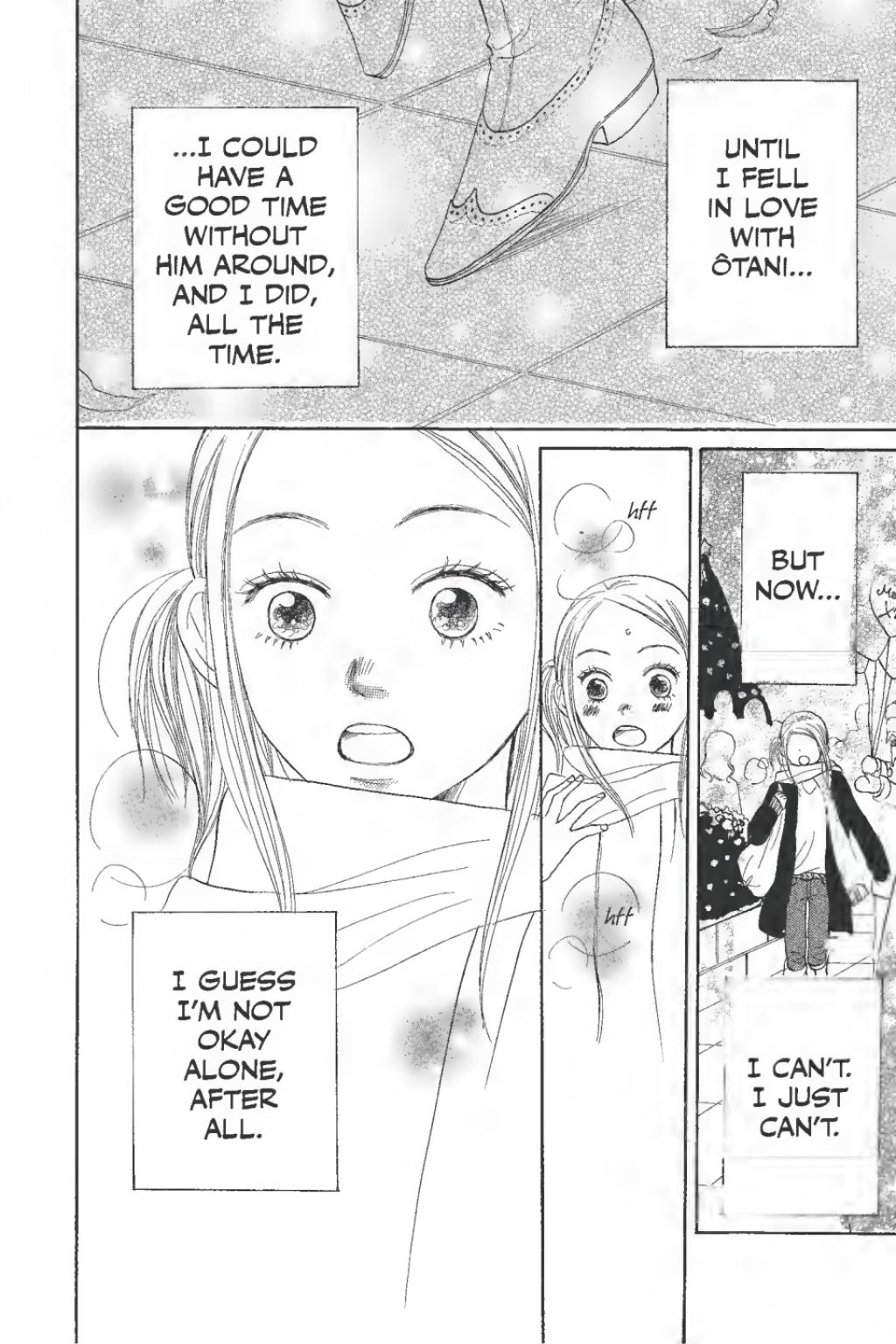
KOHORI-  
KUN...

SORRY,  
KOHORI-  
KUN!

BUT I  
REALLY,  
REALLY  
WANT TO  
SEE HIM  
RIGHT  
NOW!

KOIZUMI-  
SAAAN!!

BUT...!



...I COULD  
HAVE A  
GOOD TIME  
WITHOUT  
HIM AROUND,  
AND I DID,  
ALL THE  
TIME.

UNTIL  
I FELL  
IN LOVE  
WITH  
ÔTANI...

I GUESS  
I'M NOT  
OKAY  
ALONE,  
AFTER  
ALL.

BUT  
NOW...

I CAN'T.  
I JUST  
CAN'T.



I NEED  
ÔTANI TO BE  
THERE, OR  
NOTHING'S  
ANY FUN.

WHERE  
IS HE?!  
THAT...  
THAT...  
THAT  
KOHORI!



HE'S  
AT THE  
CHRIST-  
MAS  
PARTY...



ÔTANI...







I'M  
SORRY...



WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
OUT HERE,  
ÔTANI...?

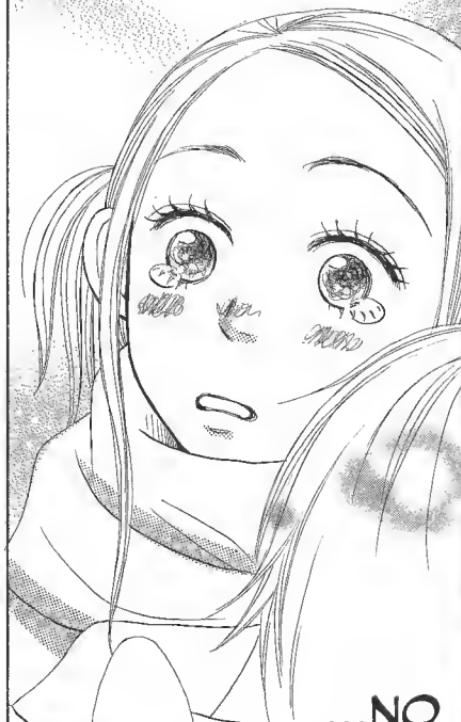
BUT  
WAIT A  
MINUTE...



...I'M  
SORRY.

...ÔTANI...





...NO  
WAY...

...WHA-  
AAA  
...?



YOU  
SOUND  
LIKE A  
SIREN.



IT TURNS  
OUT I  
LOVE YOU  
MORE  
THAN I  
THOUGHT.

...I'D  
BE WILL-  
ING TO  
BREAK  
UP A  
HUNDRED  
TIMES...

WELL,  
IF I GET  
TO HEAR  
SOME-  
THING LIKE  
THAT AT  
THE END  
OF IT...

WAS  
THAT  
FOR  
REAL  
...?

...OH...

SO WHAT?  
I'M THE  
ONE WHO'S  
GOT "GO  
FOR IT"  
PLUS MY  
NAME ALL  
OVER MY  
BACK.

YEAH, BUT  
YOUR FACE  
IS HIDDEN.  
EVERYONE  
CAN SEE  
MINE...

SO GO  
FOR IT,  
THENNNNN...

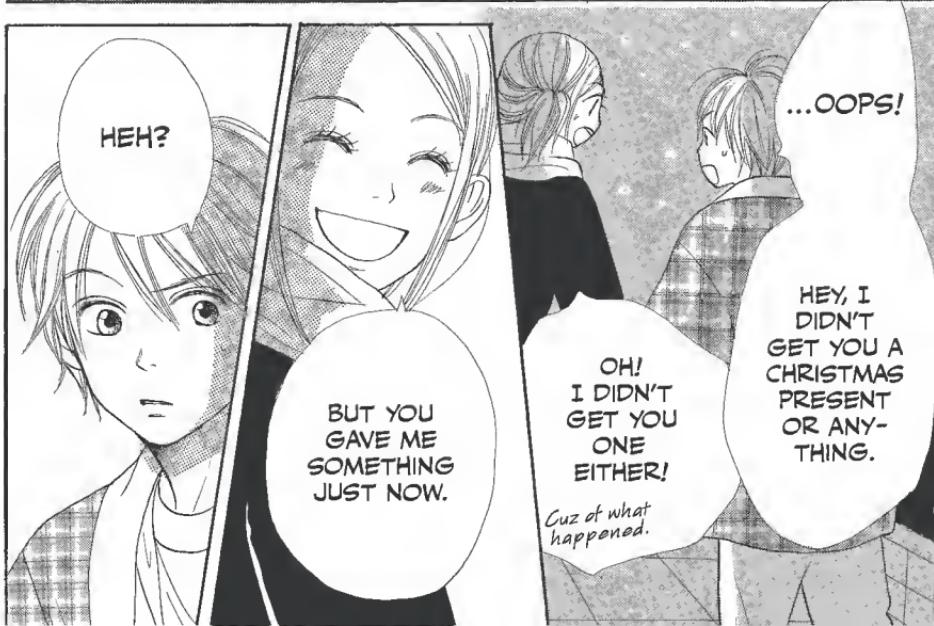
GO FOR IT  
ÔTANI  
FIGHT!

BELIEVE  
ME, I  
KNOW.

EVERY-  
BODY'S  
STARING  
AT US...

OH...  
TANIIII...

WHAT?



HEARING  
THAT...  
...WAS  
THE  
BEST  
CHRIST-  
MAS  
PRESENT  
I COULD  
WISH  
FOR.

IT TURNS  
OUT I  
LOVE YOU  
MORE  
THAN I  
THOUGHT.

I DIDN'T  
GIVE YOU  
ANYTHING.

YES,  
YOU DID.  
YOU  
REALLY  
DID.

HEYYY,  
KOHORI,  
CHEER UP!  
LET'S  
PAR-TAY!!

I  
DON'T  
NEED  
ANY-  
THING  
ELSE.

SHLOP  
ARE YOU  
DRUNK,  
MIZ  
MATSUBA  
...?



MERRY  
CHRIST-  
MAS!

Good  
for  
you,  
Niz M!!

Hey!  
I GOT  
HIM!  
I GOT  
KOHORI  
!!

Woo-  
hoo!!  
Leggo  
of  
meee!!

GUAAAARGH!!

MAY I  
GET TO  
SPEND  
EVERY  
CHRISTMAS  
WITH ÔTANI  
FROM  
NOW ON.

《...to be continued》

# glossary

## **Page 23, sidebar: Dynamite Shikoku**

Dynamite Shikoku is the name of a masked pro wrestler played by comedian Shōzō Endō on Downtown's TV show, *Gaki no Tsukai ya Arahende!!*

## **Page 58, panel 3: Nose hook**

Used in nose bondage, where a hook on a leather strap pulls the nostrils up and open to give a pig-like appearance. Check out *Love★Com* volume 3 for another nose hook appearance.

## **Page 74, panel 4: Floor cushions**

This saying comes from a comedy show on TV featuring traditional *rakugo* storytellers wearing kimono who are seated on floor cushions (*zabuton*), given topics by an elderly MC and asked to come up with snappy puns and jokes on the spur of the moment. If they're good, the MC says "Give him another *zabuton*," and if they bomb, their *zabuton* gets taken away. A really good joke will give the teller two or three *zabuton*, and so on. This has caught on in Osaka so that when someone tells a good one, people will say "Three *zabuton*!"

## **Page 117, sidebar: Fujiyama Kanbi**

An older comedian and actor from Osaka. He appeared in the 1965 *Zatoichi and the Doomed Man*.

## **Page 143, panel 1: Koban**

*Koban*, also called police boxes, are small buildings in busy areas manned by a few police officers, and work as an official Neighborhood Watch. The officers at a *koban* can offer directions, provide lost and found services, take crime reports, and offer emergency assistance.



I always wear contact lenses so you might not know this, but I have really bad eyesight. Boy, I wish they could do something about those vision tests. It's depressing to keep repeating, "I can't tell!" in front of total strangers. In fact, I hate admitting I can't see the darn symbols so much that even when I'm not sure, I try guessing. The "hmmm" I get in reply isn't very reassuring... The whole thing is a huge pain. Why can't they develop a machine that measures your eyesight for you?!

**Aya Nakahara** won the 2003 Shogakukan manga award for her breakthrough hit *Love★Com*, which was made into a major motion picture and a PS2 game in 2006. She debuted with *Haru to Kuuki Nichiyoubi* in 1995, and her other works include *HANADA* and *Himitsu Kichi*.

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